

MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE BULLET

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Your Weekly Student Newspaper

April 23, 1991

47 MWC Students Reported Sexual Assaults Last Year

Official says 17 reported to campus clinic may be only 5% of MWC total

By Jennifer Dory
Bulletin Staff Writer

A student said she was raped in Jefferson Hall at Mary Washington College last semester. As many as 47 other MWC students sought counseling for sexual assaults—most of which they said occurred on campus—in the past year.

The victim, now a Junior, did not want to be named, but was willing to tell her story.

"We were at a party," she said, "and everyone was drunk." She went back to Jefferson with a male student who had been her good friend for several months.

"We weren't dating, and it never occurred to me that he would do something like that," she said.

In his dorm room, he locked the door, held her down, and raped her, despite the fact that she was kicking and screaming for him to stop, she said.

She did not report the rape to the police because she was too embarrassed, and did not want to talk about it.

In this respect, she is like most women who are victims of sexual assault. According to a nationwide study done by researcher Mary Koss, less than 5% of the incidents of sexual assault are actually reported to the police.

According to MWC police Chief David Ankney, only two incidents of sexual assault have been reported since 1990. In one case charges were conditionally dropped, and the other is still under investigation.

The MWC Counseling Center, however, dealt with 17 women students who were sexually assaulted, last year alone. Of the 17, most were incidents that happened on campus, and probably represent less than 5% of what actually went on, according to Dr. Nancy Bailey, director of center.

The Office of Student Affairs did not have the numbers of the cases of sexual assault that they have dealt with available. Nor, according to an office spokesperson, do they have any formal programs dealing with the issue.

Dr. Carole Corcoran, a Psychology professor who started the MWC Sexual Assault Awareness Committee, said she does not feel like the college is addressing the issue very well.

"MWC has a problem with sexual assault just like every other college does, and it is not going to go away by not talking about it," she said.

Corcoran would like to see Residence Life, which she said has been reluctant in the past to deal with sexual assault prevention programs, take a more aggressive stand on the subject of acquaintance rape.

One first step is to have required seminars on acquaintance rape during Freshmen Orientation. Although there are mandatory seminars on

alcohol abuse and birth control, none deal specifically with sexual assault.

According to Corcoran, the most dangerous time for students when it comes to acquaintance rape is between the start of school Freshman year and the first vacation, she said.

"During this time, many people drink for the first time, or are on their own for the first time, and a lot of things can happen," she said.

Rape prevention techniques such as self-defense skills are not getting at the root of the problem, which is that men rape, Corcoran said. Whatever a woman can do, nothing can take away the fact that "we are living in the paths of rapists", she said.

"Most people see sexual assault as a women's issue, but until men get more involved, the number of rapes will not decrease," she said.

Junior Lisa Peterson agrees. "The only people I know who are really concerned about sexual assault are women," she said.

Bill Gavin, a Resident Assistant in Randolph Hall, said that incidents of sexual assault have probably occurred in his dorm this past year, but he has not heard of anything specific.

"I don't think it's that big of a problem," he said.

Brooke Russell is the director of the Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault, a local rape crisis center with close ties to the college Counseling Center. She said that the college is not doing enough about the problem.

"No one will admit it's a problem at MWC because they are trying to protect the school's image," she said.

Russell suggests that the school should teach the RA's to be sensitive to problems of this nature. Other possible steps include the expansion of programs like the Peer Support Group, a group started this year by the Counseling Center to help people who have been victimized.

Upwards of 30 MWC students have gone to the RCASA this past year for help, which is about 30% of the center's total number. Most of the students report incidents that have happened on campus, according to Russell.

The student raped in Jefferson last semester is unusual in that she still attends MWC. Most victims transfer or quit school in order not to have to face their assailant, according to Russell.

The student is in fact thinking of transferring. She said she can't forget what happened, and her grades and social life have suffered. "I've alienated a lot of my friends," she said, "and I still see him almost everyday around campus".



Photo David Clayton

Rain Check

"By the time we got to Westock they weren't half a million strong..." In fact the famous April bash at Mary Washington College was forced inside by rain and only a few souls made the trek over to the Great Hall for the barbeque and bands.

Board Raises Tuition

In-state on-campus students will pay \$512 more a year

Special to The Bulletin

The Mary Washington College Board of Visitors decided Saturday to increase tuition, room and board fees for the 1991-1992 school year. In-state residential students will see an 8.1 percent hike, with total fees rising from \$6,356 to \$6,868. Out-of-state students who live on campus will fork over an extra 10.9 percent—from \$9,312 to \$10,326.

"We have weighed these increases very carefully," said Richard Miller, vice president for business and finance, "and they reflect a minimum of what is needed to sustain the quality of the academic program at Mary Washington College." He said the college has lost nearly \$1.9 million in funding from the state for next year, a decrease of approximately 16 percent. The increased tuition and fee charges will help offset those cuts, he said.

The hikes will also affect in-state commuting students, who will see a tuition increase of \$256, up 10.8 percent; out-of-state students attending full-time and living off-campus will see an increase of \$758, up 14.3 percent; in-state undergraduate part-time students will pay \$8 per credit hour more, up 14.3 percent; and out-of-state undergraduate part-time students will pay \$25 more, up 16 percent.

In other action, the Board of Visitors approved a policy for naming physical facilities on the campus. At its next meeting in May, the board is likely to announce new names for as many as three current buildings on campus.

The board also reviewed plans for the eventual construction of a \$15 million Health and Physical Education Instructional facility and a \$10.5 million science building. Those facilities will remain in the planning stages until state revenue improves and a proposal is submitted to the Virginia General Assembly.

School Gets Half a Million for Gallery

Special to The Bulletin

A local artist has given Mary Washington College \$550,000 for the construction and operation of an art gallery on the college's campus.

The gift, second largest in the college's 83-year history, came from Phyllis Ridderhof Martin, a native and long-time resident of California who has retired in Fredericksburg. Martin, who taught art technique and theory for more than 30 years, painted under the name of Phyllis Ridderhof.

"Mrs. Martin's gift will do a great deal to strengthen the appreciation of art on our campus and in the Fredericksburg community," said Michael B. Dowdy, vice president for college relations.

The gallery will be approximately 3,000 square feet and will be located between duPont Hall and Seabrook Hall on College Avenue.

It will include exhibition space, a conservation laboratory for the care of paintings, and a

temperature-controlled storage area. Construction may begin as early as this summer.



Martin

Rawlings & Wilson of Richmond, Va., are architects for the project.

In addition to funds designated for construction and maintenance of the gallery, Martin will loan a collection of her paintings to the college for rotating exhibitions.

Martin, highly regarded as a colorist and a portrait artist, in the early 1960's was described by art critic Stephen Longstreet as "not just the best woman painter in the West, but one of the best artists, male or female, now working."

Her paintings are represented in many private and public collections. Her portrait of Fred Eaton, an early mayor of Los Angeles, was commissioned by the city in the mid-1960's and currently hangs in the Los Angeles City Hall.

Other commissioned portraits included leading businessmen during the mid-twentieth century.

Sexuality Takes Center Stage at Mary Washington

MWC Starts New Club for Heterosexuals

By Andrea Haich
Bulletin News Editor

An irate Mary Washington College senior interrupted the first meeting of the newly formed Heterosexual Student Association on Wednesday, April 17.

During the presidential elections, Robert Coffman, a candidate for the position, charged that the election was a joke because many members of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Association (GLBSA) attended and nominated one of their supporters for president.

The Heterosexual Student Association (HSA), which was started on the heels of Gay Awareness Week, had 23 students at its first meeting. Eight of those were also members of the GLBSA.

According to Amy Martel, president of the GLBSA, members attended out of concern that the new organization was anti-gay.

see HETEROSEXUALS, page 2



Senior Amy Martel

Photo Mike Fuhrman

Since Coming Out, Senior Fights for Gay, Lesbian Rights

By Mike Fuhrman
Bulletin Associate Editor

Mary Washington's best-known lesbian student went to the inaugural meeting of the Heterosexual Students Association (HSA) expecting a confrontation.

But she didn't get one, and she's glad. "Before I arrived at the meeting, I expected it to be a gay-bashing meeting," explained Amy Martel, current president of the MWC Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Association (GLBSA).

"I thought the meeting was a response against Gay Awareness Week," she added. "And I expected them to show their homophobia."

At the meetings onset, however, the organizer of the newly-formed Heterosexual Student Association, William Donovan '91, stated that that was not the purpose of the club. "This is not an anti-anything club," he stated. "It is for the discussion of heterosexual issues."

Martel explained that she was unaware of his intentions and added that she will continue to attend the group's meetings to insure that no gay bashing occurs. "I am not a straight basher," Martel emphasized in a recent interview. "What I really want to see is an end to the GLBSA and the

see MARTEL, page 8

Trinkle Causes Power Failures Around Campus

By Carol Gwin
Bulletin Staff Writer

If the lights in your dorm brighten and then slowly begin to dim, your computer, TV, or stereo might be in jeopardy. Mary Washington College student Carrie Reams found this out the hard way when a power surge put a quick death to her computer and all that it contained.

Power surges have occurred in many college dorms and academic buildings in the past two weeks due to faulty wiring in the newly renovated Trinkle Hall.

"We were unaware of the problem until the air conditioning units were turned on in Trinkle," said David Liebal, assistant director of the MWC physical plant. "But once the units were turned on, we discovered that the primary wires that fed the transformers to Trinkle were too small to accommodate the increased electrical output of the building."

The power surges have occurred throughout campus in both classrooms and dorms. Trinkle Hall experienced three power outages, two of which resulted in the fire alarms going off, forcing evacuations from the building during classes.

Most campus-housed students also found the power surges a hassle. According to Dana Blevins, an MWC junior and resident of Mason Hall, her dorm experienced at least four losses of power over a week. "The constant power outages are a real inconvenience, especially for those of us who have computers."

But according to Bob Andrews, director of the physical plant, the problems have more than likely been solved. "Trinkle Hall has always been hooked up on the same line as most of the dormitories and academic buildings. To alleviate the problem, we have had to replace the primary wires and hook up Trinkle to a different line which also services Lee Hall," said Andrews.

These funds were not included in the estimated \$2.6 million budget allotted for the renovation of Trinkle. According to Frank Mason, assistant vice-president of the MWC business and finance department, the extra money will come from a special account, the Maintenance Reserve Appropriations Fund, which contains about \$170,000 for building repair, said Mason.

"We use the money for emergencies like replacing roofs that are leaking, repairing caulking on the sides of buildings, or waterproofing dorms that have a good deal of water damage," said Mason.

But reserve funds to replace Carrie Reams' com-



Student and professor confer on the steps of Trinkle.

Photo David Clayton

puter might require a harder look, according to Erma Baker, purchasing director at MWC.

"Since the college was not negligent in the problem with the Trinkle wiring, it will probably be hard for her to get any reimbursement from the school," said Baker.

Another alternative for computer-owning students comes from Kristal Coleman, office man-

ager of instructional technology and computing at MWC. "Anyone who owns a computer should have a surge suppressor. You can buy one for about \$20 at any computer or electronics store. Once your computer is plugged into one, it will not get fried if a power surge does occur," said Coleman.

Library Reports Books Destroyed by Vandals

By Dana Blevins
Bulletin Staff Writer

According to Mary Washington College's Library Director Roy Strohl, approximately five library books have been destroyed in the last few weeks, and ten more are missing.

Strohl would not specify on the means of destruction, but said that it is probably being executed by only one person. Headed that this current incident is just one of many.

"We have had as many as 24 [books] damaged in one week, though the type of damage varies," Strohl said.

He added that the damage varies from heavy underlining to massive margin notes and folded pages.

Head of Circulation Beth Perkins says that she has seen much more extensive damage.

"Small articles out of encyclopedias have been clipped," Perkins said. "I've even seen a peanut butter and jelly sandwich shut inside a book."

Strohl said, "People who borrow materials from the library don't consider the long term effects that damage can have on books." He added that books may eventually become so damaged that they are thrown out.

As for the missing books, Perkins said that some students will check out a book and then lose it or just not return it.

As for replacing these books, Strohl said that there is a fund to pay for it, but that 90 percent of them are irreplaceable.

"Printing companies know their marketplace; they only make as many [books] as will sell," he said. "If a book goes out of print and then a student damages it or steals it, it's gone forever."

He added that the five recently destroyed books ranged in value from \$75-\$108. "Actually, some books have no real value, but we just can't get replacements for the old ones." Perkins adds that there is a \$35 replacement fee for missing books which can be collected when a student checks out the book, but then just does not return it.

"The sad thing about that is, though the student must pay a fee, that fee does not go to replacing the book," Perkins said. "It goes into the college's general fund and does not benefit us."

Because of that, Perkins says that they have to account for the replacement of books in their budget, and that takes away from funding to buy new books.

Strohl and Perkins both say that they believe that the public just does not take seriously the issue of damage and theft in the library.

"People think nothing of cutting a book to shreds," Strohl said.

Library Aide Cheryl Sabine says that she agrees. "After each Spring Break, I see returned books that have been burned in swimming pools or even the ocean."

Though Strohl also says he feels that people don't really calculate to steal books, the library does have an alarm system that the public must walk through as they exit the library doors. The alarm will go off if someone leaves with a book that has not been properly checked out.

"Most of the time if the alarm goes off when someone goes through the gate, it's unintentional and they come back in to check it out," he said. "However, I have had to chase people as far as Seacabcock to get books from them."

Though the library has taken two MWC students to Fredericksburg's Civil Court and one to MWC's Honor Court, Strohl says that they do not like to prosecute people.

"We don't want to beat them over the head, we just try to control access to our selection when it's not on the shelf," Strohl said.

Perkins adds, "Besides, we never catch them doing any damage; if a student reports an open beer can on the third floor, you can bet that it's gone by the time I get there."

Strohl said, "Damage always goes in cycles; this will go away, but something will come to take its place." He added, "We are experiencing no more or less damage and theft than we do all the time."

HETEROSEXUALS from page 1

Senior Bill Donovan, the club's founder, said that the club is not anti-homosexual. The purpose of the club is the education and discussion of heterosexual issues, such as marriage, divorce, dating, and safe sex.

According to the proposed constitution, which was written by Donovan and senior Chris Loudon, membership is open to all full-time MWC students, but the offices of president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and publicity chair are only open to students of heterosexual orientation.

Martel said she wondered how members would prove they are heterosexual.

Coffman and sophomore Michelle Wright, a supporter of the GLBSA, were both nominated for president of the club. Jason Ackerman, a sophomore, was nominated for vice president. There were no other nominations for other offices.

Coffman stormed out of the meeting before the vote. "This is a joke," he said. "What we have here is basically the GLBSA and they're going to vote for their stooge." He threatened a Bulletin photographer before leaving.

Shelli Wallis-Short, assistant vice president of Personnel and Affirmative Action officer, was asked to attend by Donovan, called an MWC police officer.

The officer escorted several students to the police station where they filed complaints against Coffman.

Police Chief David Ankeny said that the complaints are being investigated by a full time officer. "We don't want the situation to get out of hand."

If charged and found guilty of ha-

arrassment, Coffman could be suspended from campus according to MWC administration policy.

Coffman could not be reached for comment Sunday night.

Heterosexual Student Association organizer Donovan said he started the club as a support group for heterosexuals. "In college, people get confused on lots of issues," said Donovan. "If someone is confused and believe they are heterosexual, there is no group to support them."

Martel hopes HSA will work closely with GLBSA for any student who is questioning their sexual orientation. "I hope someday we can from a sexual student union, where we could work together on issues," she said.

Donovan agrees and hopes next year's officers will work closely with many organizations and events, such as AIDS Awareness Week.

HSA is not an official club at MWC. Next year, the Inter-Club Association, which officially recognizes and governs all clubs, must pass HSA's constitution after it is ratified by next year's members.

Although HSA faced much criticism at its general interest meeting many people feel the organization has a legitimate purpose.

"Bill is sincere in wanting to organize the club," said Martel, "but there is no interest in heterosexual issues."

Wallis-Short agrees, but hopes the club will stay together. "Bill Donovan's intentions are good," she said. "It's important to get dialogue going and to get people to have some understanding, they don't have to like it, but to have some understanding of different lifestyles."



Alcohol Education Director Rhonda Angel

New Policy Has 150 Students in Required MWC Alcohol Classes

By Carol Gwin
Bulletin Staff Writer

Due to a federal mandate that all colleges must update their alcohol policies, Mary Washington College has implemented a new program for excessive drinkers.

The program, started in October 1990, requires that all frequent offenders to the MWC alcohol and drug policy must be assessed for possible counseling.

"We're definitely not trying to label anyone as an alcoholic," said Rhonda Angel, MWC's alcohol education director. "I think that the main goal of the assessment is to help out anyone that appears to be having problems with their drinking habits. Hopefully we can help them stop the problem before it gets any worse."

Angel estimates that 150 students attended alcohol awareness classes last semester after being charged with possession of alcohol. She also estimates that 30 students attended the class for being charged with

see ALCOHOL, page 6

Students See Problems With Community Standards Program

By Andrea Hatch
Bulletin News Editor

Mary Washington College freshman Kari Rice sits in Virginia Hall's Resident Life office, waiting for an alcohol offender to arrive. The other women, who make up the jury, wait quietly. Eventually, there's a knock at the door and the offender comes in.

Rice, as judicial chairperson of Virginia Hall, explains the purpose of the trial and the function of the jury. She asks if the offender agrees with the incident report the RA wrote up about how the offender was caught in a dry dorm drinking a beer. The offender pleads guilty. Rice hands down a penalty of one-and-a-half hours of alcohol education courses.

With the case closed, Rice has completed one of the many aspects of her new job as Community Standards chairperson of Virginia Hall.

In the past all alcohol violations went to the dean of students, but under the new Community Standards program, offenses like alcohol violations in freshman dorms are tried by student juries instead. Rice for one is happy with the change.

"Things are a lot better since they're run by students," she said.

"Students think it's more democratic," added Rhonda Angel, MWC who was hired in the fall of 1990 to run the program. "A dean is just an extension of the parent role."

The Community Standards program is one aspect of a three-part plan that the college started last semester 1990. The program, which is being conducted this year in freshman halls, allows residents to make their own rules for dorm living on issues such as visitation, phone regulation, and laundry-room use. The students also set maximum and minimum punishments for violations.

There have been problems with the new program, however. For one thing, Rice feels that residents are not assertive enough to stand up for the rules they have created.

Others have complained that the college didn't have enough time to effectively implement the program in the fall, and they complain that in a lot of cases students haven't been allowed to make their own rules because of existing college regulations. Still others say the program has burdened them with extra paperwork.

According to Rice, the process for setting up these rules started in the fall when the freshmen arrived. Resident assistants (RAs) first had to explain what the program was, and then residents were allowed to submit their ideas to dorm or hall councils, which are the elected officers who manage dorm affairs. The councils narrowed the suggestions down before the residents voted on the issues. Eighty percent of the dorm had to vote in favor of a proposal for it to pass.

In Virginia Hall, the only all-female freshman dorm at MWC, residents set up certain procedures to follow when a person violates quiet hours, which are from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. weekdays, and they set a limit of 20 minutes for any phone calls. In Randolph, during the spring semester, residents extended visitation from midnight to 3 a.m. on weekdays.

According to Angel, there was more negotiating on issues such as visitation and quiet hours outside of Virginia Hall since the other three freshman halls, Randolph, Russell, and Bushnell, are co-ed.

Another aspect of the Community Standards program is the use of a judicial board, which tries all student offenses. Any violation, whether reported by an RA or student, goes to the board, except improper sign-outs which are seen as a "victim-less" crime, said Angel.

All four freshman dorms have a judicial chairperson, whose duties include issuing trial dates, presiding at trials, and handing down penalties.

In Randolph Hall, offenders may be required to collect their neighbors' garbage as punishment for violations; in see STANDARDS, page 6

Correction

In the April 16 Bulletin, a headline stated that "Lost Art" worth half a million dollars had been found by MWC students. According to duPont Gallery Director Susanne Arnold, however, the College cannot place an exact value on the artwork. She also said that the art wasn't "lost," but rather some of it had not been accounted for in recent inventories.

OPINIONS

THE MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE



BULLET

STAFF



We thank the Magazine Writing Class for this final issue.



This is the 1990-91 Bullet staff. Front: Jeff Poole, Mike Fuhrman. Back (L-R) Pam Richardson, Dave Canatsey, Andrea Hatch, Katy Freed, Matt Geary, Amy Fitzpatrick, Kim Quillen, Cassia Funk. Not pictured: Tracee Butler, Justin Platt, Dave Clayton, Nicole Rager, Jennifer Sheffield, Betsy Lindsey, Lisa Hatchett.

Our Side ...

It's 2:30 a.m. on a Monday morning. Juniors Jeff Poole and Mike Fuhrman are still in the *Bullet* office. Jeff is finishing up the *Opinions* and *Sports* sections, which he lays out every week. Mike is typing in Jeff's comments as they work on the paper's editorial. They're also trying to find ads that don't exist, but should.

They'll probably be up until 4 a.m. And they do it every time a *Bullet* comes out.

As editors of the *Bullet*, Jeff and Mike have accomplished a lot. The decision to change the format and style of the paper from tabloid to a more serious broad sheet was theirs.

Along with these changes in appearance, the editor-in-chief and associate editor raised the level of journalistic responsibility and integrity at the *Bullet*. This year's issues have been full of hard-hitting news, story features, and thoughtful commentary.

These two guys, besides making long

days and late nights in the *Bullet* office much more enjoyable, pushed other staffers to do their best.

They didn't cut corners or try to take a simpler way out of hard situations; they worked and produced a paper they and other staffers could be proud of.

Thanks guys! Even though we may tease you about your stinky shoes, cheesy (ex-)moustache, and "bo-bo" opinions, you guys did a great job. We'll miss your dedication and pride in a job well done.

We also want to say thanks to everyone who wrote, typed, and edited. Without these people, a paper could not be made. Special thanks to our graduating copy editor Katy Freed who had to put up with last minute editing and searches for lost copy. Also thanks to senior Kate Bailey, one of our writers. The *Bullet* staff wishes you well and hopes you can get that freckle off the end of your nose.

To returning staff members -- see you next year.

Thanks to Bullet for Article on Jack Damron

To the editor,

My congratulations to Lisa Clark for her article of April 16, 1991 ("Damron files charges...") regarding my husband's struggle in the last year to obtain a fair hearing on his abrupt dismissal from the College. It is an understatement to say that I, and in some ways our two small children, have been very much affected by the shocking experience of the last year, in particular that my husband's excellent record has not been allowed to speak for itself, that the many efforts by others on his behalf have gone ignored, and that there is no arena provided in which the facts may be brought into evidence. I am grateful to Lisa Clark for her courage in pursuing this story, her efforts devoted to getting at the facts of the matter, and her and *The Bullet's* willingness to print the article. You have brought into the public forum an issue which, because of the absolute lack of legal protection for untenured faculty at this college, can only be settled through public information, followed by public initiative.

There is a great deal more detail that could be set forth about our situation and the lack of grievance procedures in general. I would like here to add the following to the information already available in *The Bullet* article: In addition to the letters of support from faculty last spring, there was also a

"The College and particularly the students, stand to lose a great deal more over the long run"

spontaneous and impressive outpouring of support from students and parents, expressed through numerous letters and phone calls to President Anderson's office. Perhaps even more important, I understand that student leaders organized and collected approximately 500 student signatures on a petition supporting Jack and requesting a fair hearing for him. We continue to receive statements of support and interest from students, parents, and faculty in seeing this issue settled fairly—not only for our sake, but also for untenured faculty in general.

The geography department's and college administration's continual refusal to comment publicly on the allegations against my husband should make everyone question the basis for the department's and administration's actions. Unfortunately, until students, parents, and faculty insist that untenured faculty be given the right—

enjoyed by most state employees—to an established grievance procedure, even the finest new faculty will continue to be at risk of arbitrary dismissal. Student Kristen Adamson was right when she said, "the school is losing an incredible professor." The College, and particularly the students, stand to lose a great deal more over the long run if this situation is not satisfactorily addressed.

Mary Williams Damron

Geography Profs' Behavior was Unprofessional

To the editor,

Regarding the conflict surfacing in the Geography Department: as a past student of Dr. John Damron's, I am purely delighted at the news that his abounding ability as an educator is finally being acknowledged. I am equally as disappointed at the lack of professional behavior displayed by some of his colleagues within the same department.

Betsy McDaniel '90

Letters to the Editor

Student Urges Maturity in Response to Gays

To the editor,

Open your eyes Mr. Sittler and Mr. Hurlbert. Grow up.

"Jeans Day," as far as I could tell, was not a miserable failure. I personally wore shorts because of the weather—but had it been cooler (or had I denim shorts), I certainly would have been jean-clad. (For the curious, I am not a homosexual. I believe everybody has rights, not to be determined by such trifles as skin color, religious tenets, or personal sexual habits.)

And hey, sorry for cramping your style. Do you really own no pairs of pants which are not jeans? I somehow find that hard to believe. If you're slow to do your laundry, that's your problem.) Besides, just because the GLBSA declares a "Jeans Day," do you have to subscribe to it? Hell, I didn't even know about it until Wednesday.

Which brings up my next point. How can you say it was "shoved down your throat"? Who lied to you, taped your eyes open, and forced you to read all the literature? I somehow managed to

"Maybe the Bible dictates your morals, but not everyone else's."

remain unharassed. There are "awareness weeks" on this campus constantly; it's just that the GLBSA (hats off, Amy M. and crew!) is together enough and motivated enough to advertise effectively. Give credit where credit is due.

What box do you live in that prevents you from witnessing the homophobia, racism, and ignorance that is everywhere, even on our precious campus? Read "Our Side" on page 4 of the same paper in which your letter was printed. Those messages scrawled on moron's sweatshirts were real. Likewise the "amusing" "colored only" signs placed over drinking fountains at GW during Black History Month.

And now to your "facts." I will concede that the Bible prohibits homosexuality, your basis for immorality. But what about the Koran? What about

Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism? Maybe the Bible dictates your morals, but not everyone else's.

True, too, are the many anti-sodomy laws in this country. Let's be honest, though, many of us are guilty of this "crime." These are obviously anti-homosexual laws, generated by paranoid, closed-minded legislation, backed by fear, hatred, and intolerance.

Trust of all, I suppose, is your biological argument. Oh, thank you, heterosexuals! By the way, who ever suggested to you that homosexuals wanted everybody to be homosexual? Okay, so you're not harassing. But just because you "don't see the reason for homosexuality" doesn't mean that it is wrong. I didn't think emotions were supposed to be reasonable, anyway. Learn the discrepancy between "wrong" and "different."

And believe it or not, most of us go through our days rather unconcerned about whether or not we have your "approval."

Robert E. Epler

Week Showed Gays Oppressed

To the editor,

I am writing to express my disbelief and sadness concerning Gay Awareness Week. I have never seen such a blatant disregard for people's feelings as I have this week. Some people are overweight, some are minorities, some have mental or physical disabilities, some even prefer the company of their same sex in intimate relationships. Why is that so terrible? Why does any deviation from what society deems "the norm" end up being wrong or bad?

Why do some people think that they are better than others? Who told them so?

Whatever happened to the fundamentals, the basics you learn when you were little: be nice, share, and respect others? I understand having your own personal beliefs and values, but I do not understand using them to judge other people.

The First Amendment is a good principle, but its purpose is not to give people the right to ridicule and hurt others.

At what point in life do people realize that it is not every man for himself, but that we all must work together?

Unfortunately, Gay Awareness Week has made me aware of all the pessimism directed towards this particular group on campus. Yet, it has also opened my eyes and mind to the struggle that gays, lesbians, and bisexuals have to continually face in order to be who they are. I respect what they fight for, and I am sorry that they have to fight at all.

Kerri Ann Mullen

Writers Wrong on Homosexuality

To the editor,

I have attended MWC for four years now and have seen controversies come and go. I've sat back and watched them all without saying a word. That is, until now. I'm sorry, but the letter from Robert Sittler and Pat Hurlbert in last week's *Bullet* has hit a nerve with me, and I feel I must say my piece.

Their letter was written in complaint of "Gay Awareness Week" here the week before. Their first argument was that gay awareness was "shoved down their throats." I can understand how some people feel that the methods used by the GLBSA were rather surprising, but when you think about it, it had to be done that way. On this campus it is much more acceptable to ridicule homosexuals than any other minority. In order to be heard, it was necessary to come out strong and clear. If the tables were turned, those of you who

share Robert and Pat's sentiment would most likely use exactly the same methods used by GLBSA.

In their letter, Robert and Pat stated that on "Jeans Day," they could not wear jeans for fear of making the "unwilling statement" of supporting gay rights. Guys, it was only for one day. Deal with it. If you can't tolerate one day's inconvenience, then you most certainly are not prepared for the real world. It was done to get across to students the way homosexuals feel when they cannot be themselves out in public in the same way that heterosexuals can. Those of us who were brave enough to wear the jeans got a taste of the harassment that people like Amy Martel receive every day. I hope you guys did feel uncomfortable that day. If you did, then the goal was accomplished.

Robert and Pat then went on to state several "facts." First, they said homosexuality is outlawed in the Old Testament. Well, it also says basically the same thing about sex outside of marriage (there goes half the campus). If you're going to follow the Old Testament completely, then more than just homosexuals are worthy of death. If you are only going to use only the parts of it that you like, then it becomes meaningless. Also, the Bible states that even though you may not approve of the act, you still love and support the person. That's obviously not something you are willing to do. Besides, in living in the dorm with you guys, I don't see where you actually use religion at all—except for now. How convenient.

Next, the legality of homosexuality was brought up. They said "anal and oral intercourse are illegal" thus "homosexual intercourse is illegal." Well, they fail to take into account that lesbians do not have intercourse.

Another "fact" stated was that homosexuals would not be able to reproduce. Wrong again, guys. Just because a person chooses homosexuality does not mean that he or she is incapable of having children. Besides, there are quite a few bisexual marriages these days. So when you say that "homosexuals would not even exist were it not for heterosexuals" think again.

My hat goes off to the members of GLBSA who were able to stand strong the whole week long. It took a great deal of courage to do that. They proved themselves worthy of respect. If you guys can't deal with it then that's your problem. You may stress the importance of having a heterosexual organization on campus (are you reading this Bill—I hope so). If you carry it out, it still won't compare to the bravery of the GLBSA. They had to overcome the narrow-mindedness of guys like you (and I've noticed that it is mostly guys).

You say homophobia is not a problem on campus. I tell you that you are proof that it is a problem.

Russ Painter

Loss of Damron Bad for School

To the editor,

I was shocked to read in *The Bullet* about the manner in which the recent dismissal of Jack Damron was carried out by Mary Washington College. As an emeritus professor who taught there for many years this lack of a formal and fair grievance procedure makes me ashamed of the college. It seems clear that Jack Damron is a well qualified, respected and concemed teacher, who was diligent and rated well by his students as well as by many of his colleagues outside of the Geography Department. His activities working on the Race and Gender project and in carrying out the Martin Luther King Day's celebration are to be commended.

There were serious problems when I was teaching at MWC where certain professors were harassing female students sexually. Some excellent women students complained to me about this problem and I fully trust their honesty. Even though I twice (with no names) brought this to the attention of two different deans nothing was done. The Sex and Race and Gender study was indeed a valuable step!

It saddens me to see their unfair treatment of Jack Damron and also to realize that MWC is losing a very valuable faculty member as a scholar as well as a concerned community member of the college. He will be a great loss especially to students for geography.

Allice B. Rabson

How About Kappa?

To the editor,

I read with interest the article entitled "Intolerance Prompts Awareness Week" which appeared on the front page. The tone of the article exuded empathy for the plight of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals on campus. In an attempt to foster understanding and lessen bias the GLBSA had received sanctions from MWC to sponsor a "Gay Awareness Week."

It seems hypocritical to me that the College and Student governing board professes the desire to foster diversity and understanding among varied groups on campus yet it repeatedly rejects the request of Kappa Gamma Sigma to be recognized as a member of the Inter-College Association. The continued rejection of Kappa Gamma Sigma's bid for recognition as a service organization on campus leads me to conclude that prejudice is alive and well at MWC. If freedom of choice is truly an objective MWC, then Kappa Gamma Sigma's next petition for acceptance must be approved. Think about it!

Carolann Botty

FEATURES



Russell Cate and Tracy Mabbitt at a protest in Washington D.C.

Ecology Club Expands Its Role in the Community and on Campus

Neil Hetrick
Bullet Staff Writer

The Mary Washington Ecology Club is approaching its mission of environmental education with a new fervor. The organization already has its own campus-wide aluminum recycling program, is involved with local clean-up activities, and has contributed to this year's local Earth Day events.

According to junior Russell Cate, former Ecology Club president, the group's renewed vigor has been spurred primarily by the college's recent push for recycling that has resulted from a new Virginia mandate that all state agencies recycle 10 percent of their waste by July 1, 1991. Cate said that the college administration hadn't paid much attention to Ecology Club recycling efforts before the new law was passed a year ago.

"All of a sudden we were able to talk with the administration very seriously about getting recycling going and making it a permanent part of the school," Cate recalled.

The Ecology Club went beyond talking and installed 55 yellow plastic trash-cans in dormitories and various other buildings on campus for the collection of aluminum. Twice weekly, club members collect the aluminum cans and transport them to Fredericksburg's Piedmont recycling plant using MWC trucks loaned to them by the college.

Since operations began last semester, the Ecology Club has recycled more than 4,100 pounds of aluminum, according to senior Matt Ammon, the club's Recycling Coordinator. This has meant big earnings for the club—\$1,016 at the average \$3.1 per pound rate offered by Piedmont, despite penalties for impurities such as glass mixed in with the aluminum. Club members say these impurities are thrown into the aluminum bins by people who

mistake the containers for garbage cans.

On top of the \$300 allocated to the organization by the college each year, this money has allowed the group to take a generous stand in the local community. According to Ammon, the club donated \$125 last semester to area charities that include the Friends of the Rappahannock, a private organization dedicated to the river's clean-up, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Fredericksburg Clean Community Council, and the Rappahannock Council on Domestic

"All of a sudden we were able to talk with the administration very seriously about getting recycling going and making it a permanent part of the school."

Violence.

The Ecology Club's involvement in community services has also become more generous of late. Through Fredericksburg's "Adopt-a-spot" program, the club has taken responsibility for keeping litter-free a section of the city canal stretching from the Route 1 bridge to Princess Anne Street. The club finished the most recent of its canal clean-up sessions on Mar. 30, collecting 20 bags of trash and 150 pounds of aluminum and glass.

Fredericksburg's Friends of the Rappahannock also works with the Ecology Club in a biannual clean-up of the Rappahannock river. The popular water event, next scheduled for Apr. 27, offers interested people the chance to help clean the river in a recreational

outdoors event followed by a picnic.

"Spring is a great time of the year for the Ecology Club," said senior Tracy Mabbitt, Community Outreach Organizer for the club. "It's a shame that the school year is over so soon, because there are a lot of great activities coming up."

Some of the biggest spring activities the Ecology Club is involved with are those associated with the annual Earth Day celebrations. Though Apr. 22 is Earth Day 1991, the club decided to put its efforts into "eco-awareness" fairs on Apr. 20 at the Gayle Middle School in Stafford county and at Spotsylvania Mall rather than organize Earth Day activities on campus. "The events were sort of instructional events that showed people how to do things on their own," Ammon said. "And there was a great response from the community—especially at the mall. It shows we're not making all this effort in vain."

Both events featured presentations in a fair-type environment by waste and recycling companies, local action groups, and, at the middle school, by student clubs from around the area. Club representatives were at the school during the morning hours, moving to the mall event later in the day.

"It was a long day for us," said Mabbitt afterwards. "I wish they could have had the events on different days so we could have attended both full-day events. Still, it was quite successful."

Mabbitt, who has a teaching internship with the Stafford County Beautification Commission, was especially pleased with the general response from students at the middle school.

"I learned a lot from the kids' displays, and I think they learned a lot from the corporate displays," Mabbitt said. "Now they'll know there's something beyond their seventh-grade science program."

History Class Experiences Europe

Trip Included Stop in East Berlin

By Monica Mueller
Bullet Staff Writer

The Berlin sky was a blanket of gray smog, covering the old war statues with grime. A Trabant, the East German signature car, spouted past coughing black fumes from its exhaust. Eight Mary Washington College students wandered amid the buildings that still showed evidence of World War II damage.

"Many of the buildings that were standing since the war were badly scarred from bullets and shells," said senior Greta Rudolph. "There were often big chunks taken out of them, or you'd see little plastered [areas] where they'd patched the damage up."

The students of Professor Porter Blakemore's "Europe Since 1945" class spent their spring break learning first hand about the differences in European culture.

"It was great being able to actually go into the places I've studied about and experience them instead of just reading about them in books," said International Affairs major Rudolph.

After rushing to finish last minute packing, term-papers, and mid-term exams, the group flew out of Dulles International Airport on the evening of March 8.

The students spent eight days in four Central European capitals: Berlin, of what was previously East Germany; Prague, Czechoslovakia; Vienna, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary.

The group, which also included Professor Sam Emory and Mrs. Sylvia Emory, spent two days in each of the four countries, taking in the historical sights. They traveled by bus from city to city, and were exposed to the drastic differences between previously Communist countries and democratic countries.

Junior Liam Cleaver said, "In East Berlin you really notice it. The difference between East and West Berlin, economically, there's such a difference. It's like night and day."

"I thought it was interesting in Hungary how they spray-painted across street signs the Communist had put up," said International Affairs and History major Cleaver. "They re-established the old street signs they had before the Communists took over and had removed certain statues."

"It really woke up my eyes to the fact that it'd been some sort of different government."

The students drove past the border of Hungary and Austria on Friday March 15, a Hungarian national holiday. At the border stood a 7 kilometer line of cars eagerly waiting entrance into Austria.

"These people were on holiday and wanted to go into Vienna to buy

things that they couldn't get in Hungary," said Blakemore. "Coffee was a big item. [The Austrians] had bags of it that they would sell right across the frontier crossing."

"It was amazing to see basically a five mile long line. And they couldn't afford to stay anywhere so they all sleep in their cars," added Blakemore.

Blakemore became interested in taking college students to Europe after spending three weeks in Germany two years ago.

"I thought at that time it would be a great experience for the students to

ferent, but they weren't pleasant or comfortable," said Whalen. "But Prague was so pretty and quaint." Rudolph agreed, but added, "If you look behind the scenic beauty it is very poor. These houses don't have electrical lines going to them. They are lucky if they have indoor plumbing. It's really pretty and scenic to look at but you wouldn't want to live there."

In Czechoslovakia the exchange rate was extraordinarily good—approximately 26 Czechoslovakian crowns for one United States dol-



Dr. Blakemore's History Class in Europe

sample the differences between Communist East Germany and West Germany," said Blakemore.

This past fall, with the recent MWC emphasis on globalization, Blakemore looked into several different European travel packages and settled on one offered by the American Council of International Studies. Blakemore then linked the trip to his "Europe Since 1945"

lar—which translated into some shopping sprees for the Americans. "Shopping in Prague was very cheap," said Rudolph. "I got a set of six crystal wine glasses in Prague. I paid maybe \$17 to \$20 for Bohemian crystal glasses, where it would probably cost me \$50 a pop in the United States."

All the students agreed that the trip was well worth the approximately \$1700 they spent for air-fare, lodging—which included breakfast and dinner—and the tour package.

"I think I had the opportunity to do the trip next year—which I hope there is—I would."

course, requiring any student who registered to take the trip.

Eleven students signed up for the course but three had to drop out of the trip, one due to illness, and two due to their parents concern of the possibility of terrorist activities related to the Gulf War.

Security in the airports was extremely tight. "In Budapest, when we left, we had to go through several security checks to board the aircraft," said Blakemore. "I know I was physically searched twice, and my bags were X-rayed twice, plus there was another check."

Sara Whalen, a history major, signed up for the course without realizing that a required trip was the highlight of the syllabus. Whalen decided to go because she had never been to Europe and thought it would be a great opportunity.

"I liked Prague the best. It was so different, but pleasantly different, whereas Berlin and Budapest were dif-

ferent, but they weren't pleasant or comfortable," said Whalen. "But Prague was so pretty and quaint." Rudolph agreed, but added, "If you look behind the scenic beauty it is very poor. These houses don't have electrical lines going to them. They are lucky if they have indoor plumbing. It's really pretty and scenic to look at but you wouldn't want to live there."

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Cleaver, along with the other travelers, agreed, however, that next time it would be more worthwhile to stick to three cities instead of four.

"A lot of the times the guide would say, 'Well, here's such and such a building, and maybe when you come back next time, you can go see it,'" said Cleaver.

Blakemore commented, "One of the things I'd do to change the trip would be to cut out Budapest, and add another day in Vienna and Berlin. Not because I don't think the trip was of value [in Budapest], but there was probably one too many cities."

Because he was the sponsor of a group of students, the American Council of International Studies covered Blakemore's travel expenses.

Madam Loretta Reads Palms, Tells Fortunes for As Little as \$5

By Erin Ingle
Special to the Bullet

Madam Loretta lives in Falmouth, Va. with her daughter and two grandchildren. Next to their brown siding house is a used car lot. Out front, two signs are planted in the grass. One reads: Steve's Used Cars, open 10-8. The other has a large red hand painted on it: "55 Special Reading."

Madam Loretta is a palmist.

She greets her customer at the door, invites her in and leads her to a back room. They walk through the kitchen and through the living room: past the grandchildren watching Bugs Bunny and eating orange popicles. They step over the laundry basket left in the middle of the floor and brush aside the rest of the house. The curtains fall back into place and Bugs Bunny is drowned out by the sound of Madam Loretta's voice.

She asks the girl's name.

"Laura."

She asks for the money. Laura opens

her hand to expose the \$5 bill. Madam Loretta seems surprised. Her dark eyes open wide.

"Is this all you have?" she asks. Laura nods. "55 pays for a limited reading," Madam Loretta tells her. "I cannot tell you too much. Most people give \$25."

Laura nods. "I will do one hand," Madam Loretta tells her.

Palimistry, or chiromancy, as a means of telling fortunes has been around for thousands of years. Over time its popularity and credibility have been through a continual cycle of highs and lows. Today, many such as Madam Loretta still practice it.

Customarily, the left hand is chosen for reading, but Madam Loretta takes Laura's right, and brushes the money along the palm—tracing the major lines—first in no direction, then the other.

"Make two wishes," Madam Loretta says. "Tell one to me and keep the other to yourself." She smiles at Laura. It is not a pretty smile. Three of the front

teeth are missing and her large lips catch on one of the remaining. She nods at Laura's wish and rearranges

herself in her plastic pink chair. Moving very slowly, she pulls the extra folds of her long blue skirt out from under her legs. One of the children pulls the curtain aside and peeks in. Madam Loretta waves him away and as the curtain closes everything becomes pink again.

Madam Loretta begins her reading. Readings are based on the three major lines of the hand—the life, heart, and

head—and on the different areas of the hand. To the experienced palmist, the hand appears to be a map. The life line runs up the middle of the palm, and the heart and head lines run basically perpendicular to that with the heart line at the top near the fingers and the head line directly underneath.

These lines help to mark the boundaries of the nine major areas which appear on the palm. A palm dominated by lines and markings denotes an expressive, outgoing personality; prominent mounted areas signify a more introverted, less communicative personality.

"The lines and markings recorded on the palm of the hand are subject to change throughout life," says Carol Hellings White in her book *Holding Hands*. "Thus, a palmist does not really see what will be later in a person's life, but rather how they are living their life at the present."

Madam Loretta however, concentrates in her readings on the future implications of such personality traits rather than the explanation of them.

"You will have a long life," Madam Loretta says, running her index finger along the life line. "I see 80...83 years. You will live that long." Madam Loretta stares hard into Laura's eyes.

Laura nods. "You like to live," Madam Loretta



says. "I see you are an active person. The line is deep. I see you have recently been on a long trip."

Laura nods. "Florida."

"I see you are not married." No wedding ring.

"I see you have a boyfriend." "No I don't," Laura tells her.

Madam Loretta stops and brushes her hair from her face. A few long black strands fall back. She begins again.

"I see you had a boyfriend." Laura shakes her head. "No."

"Once," Madam Loretta adds. Laura nods.

"I see he hurt you." Laura shakes her head again. "I see you hurt him."

Laura nods. "I see you are worried about someone." The predictions go on. Sometimes Laura nods, sometimes she doesn't. Fifteen minutes later Madam Loretta has finished. Five dollars will only go so far in the world of palimistry.

Ice Cream Keeps Customers Coming to Carl's

By Alison Dunphy
Special to The Bulletin

It's 5:30 on a Friday night. Guided by the pink and green neon ice cream cone sign, a steady stream of cars pulls into the tiny parking lot of 2200 Prince Street, Fredericksburg. It's an unusually mild evening in February, so many might say perfect weather to enjoy an ice-cream cone from Carl's, a no-frills, take-out ice-cream shop. Carl's opened for the new season Feb. 15 and they've had a busy season so far.

"The first two weeks of the season are a nightmare—regardless of the weather!," says Ramona Sponseller, 28, one of the three owners of Carl's. Carl's closes for three months after Thanksgiving so at the start of the new season anxious customers crowd the shop for their first taste of spring.

What makes Carl's special? "Believe it or not, it's the looks," says Sponseller's brother, Daniel, 26, also an owner. "People are attracted to the big windows where they can see the machines."

According to Daniel Sponseller the shop was closed so that original owner, Carl Sponseller, could enjoy the hunting season.

"The winter months are slow, and besides, the first and last two weeks of the season are so busy that we make up for any lost business," says Daniel Sponseller.

A new employee, Lisa Bruno says, "I went home last night and I dreamed about the line!" A sign placed in the window near the cashiers reads "PLEASE KEEP LINE CLOSE TO BUILDING". "I've waited in a line that wound all the way to the back of the building!," says customer, Ken Kalms.

Tonight the line is only 10 or so customers deep and it moves quickly. Two small children stretch on their tip-toes, their faces smushed against the glass as they watch the chocolate and strawberry ice cream ooze from the "Electro Freeze" machines.

The menu at Carl's, displayed behind a glass window well below an adult's



Photo David Clayton

eye level, offers a variety of sizes of cones, shakes, and sundaes with a choice of three ice cream flavors: chocolate, strawberries, hot fudge, maple walnut, and crushed pineapple. Prices range from .64 cents for a small cone to \$3.40 for a quart container.

"We stick to the basic flavors because that's what people like about Carl's," says Ramona Sponseller. According to Sponseller, Hershey's syrup is the flavoring for the chocolate ice cream and it's used as the topping for the chocolate sundae. Nuts are the only optional, additional topping for the sundaes.

"It's funny," Sponseller says. "College students always expect sundaes with chocolate ice cream. But we serve ours with vanilla, so we have to ask them to clarify which flavor they want."

Crushed strawberries and sugar flavor the strawberry ice cream. Any other special, secret ingredients? "We use grain alcohol to dissolve the vanilla powder," says Daniel Sponseller. "But

you end up with so little grain it's pathetic!"

Tradition keeps Carl's unique. Carl Sponseller opened the shop in 1947 with the same three ice-cream flavors. According to Ramona Sponseller, the owners haven't thought much of adding new flavors because they're confident customers prefer the originals. Many customers are because they frequent Carl's but also because they order the same items.

Kathy Truslow, 17, who's been a "dipper" at Carl's for four years says, "You see a lot of the same people and get to know what they want—like this one guy who always orders two small chocolate shakes, in a bag with two straws."

Wearing a slightly stained white apron and a restaurant-style paper hat decorated in neon green letter, Mike Curry, 17, steps outside for a break. Curry is a GIB, one of the "Guys in Back," named after the co-pilots who sit in the rear of a plane and help the pilot

command the controls. Before Carl Sponseller opened his shop, he was a pilot in the Air Force and adopted the name for the behind-the-scenes workers who make the ice cream and clean the machines.

Curry has been working three to four shifts a week since July of last year. What keeps him at his job? "The girls!" says Curry smiling as he leans against a car, arms crossed confidently across his chest.

Sponseller isn't sure what motivated her uncle to start the business 44 years ago, but it has remained family operated. Ramona and Daniel share ownership with their father, Paul Sponseller, 58. Carl Sponseller retired twenty-two years ago when he gave the shop to his son, Herb Sponseller. Earlier this year Herb retired and passed it down to Daniel, Ramona and Paul.

Owning and managing Carl's is full-time work for all three of them. Ramona Sponseller says a typical shift has four employees on duty: a manager, a GIB, a dipper and a cashier.

"Hey Miss Alabama," someone yells. "Roll Tide!"

I smile and wave some more. After a week of being photographed our smiles are practically automatic. We pass by the grandstand with a TV camera in our faces and try not to notice it too much. We're near the end of the parade route and our week as 1991 Cherry Blossom Princesses representing American Samoa, which is a U.S. territory, and Alabama. Our arms are about to fall from all the waving and all we want is a cool drink.

After the parade we will go back to being called by our first names rather than "Maine," "Florida," or "Alabama." We will be able to relax in jeans and tee-shirts. We will smile when we want to and not be bargained by photographers. We won't have to mingle and be introduced to 20 people or more in a night. For a week, this has been our life. We wore white gloves wherever we went, could only wear dresses or skirts, and weren't allowed to chew gum.

Says Amy Archibald of Main, "After all of this is over, I'm going to eat a gallon of chocolate chip ice cream... by myself."

The week began with an orientation at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, our headquarters for the week. John Cicala, the president of the National Council of State Societies, stepped up to the podium and introduced various chairpersons of events. Before stepping down, he said, "Tomorrow will be a busy day. You're going to eat, eat, eat, all day."

Sitting next to me, Archibald asked, "Are you as nervous as I am?"

I nodded yes, but not as nervous as I was before I knew that I would be the first foreverthing. A couple of weeks before, I talked to a former Princess from Alabama and she warned me, "You'll always be first." This year, however, they decided to arrange us in the order our state entered the union. Thankfully, I am nineteenth. Miss Delaware is first. Sitting in the first row of the conference room she didn't look too happy.

Rose Cicala, the Princess Chairwoman, stepped up to the podium and wiped the smile from my face. Today, at the opening ceremony, she announced, I would be first. In a little over an hour, we boarded the buses. We had a police escort to get us to the Tidal Basin but even so it took 25 minutes. There, thousands of people admired the Cherry trees under a nearly cloudless blue sky.

Being first was not that bad, for this event though, because we were not the center of attention; the trees were. The Festival is a celebration of Spring and of the friendship between the Japanese and American people and is symbolized by the Cherry trees. In March 1912, the mayor of Tokyo presented a gift of 3000 cherry trees



Photo courtesy Kristen Nolen

Cherry Blossom Princesses gang up for hospital visit.

True Life Confessions of a Cherry Blossom Belle

By Kristen Nolen
Special to The Bulletin

American Samoa and I sit atop a black 1956 Thunderbird convertible which is slowly moving down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. on this hot April Saturday afternoon. About 88,000 people on sidewalks, balconies, steps of buildings, and even roofs watch as we pass by. We wear white gloves and wave to the crowd. Our car is a popular one because the granddaughter of the driver throws bubble gum to the kids lining the street. As the children race for the gum, older people clap and smile at us. A few wave back in a practiced style: elbow, wrist, wrist.

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to the City of Washington. The first trees were planted by Mrs. William Howard Taft, who first showed interest in planting cherry trees in Washington, and the wife of the Japanese Ambassador. Today, 650 trees surround the Tidal Basin and more fill East Potomac Park in the District. The first Cherry Blossom Festival was organized in 1935 by Washington civic groups. A 300-year old Japanese lantern was given to the city in 1954 and is lit at the opening ceremony each year.

After speakers such as the ambassador of Japan, and Sharon Pratt Dixon, the mayor of D.C., we returned to the hotel for the opening reception. A long white platform ran across a pool of water, and overlooking this miniature Tidal Basin was the Grand Hyatt's Restaurant. Fifty of us, from almost all the states and territories lined up, preparing ourselves for the perilous walk across the water. Images of slipping and falling in the water haunted us. Miss Mississippi summed it up when she said, "If I'm going to fall, you're falling with me." We smiled in agreement. As we stepped up to the platform, John Cicala and the General Chairman of the Festival, Gary Crayton, reminded each of us to smile.

We all made it across. As diners watched us from their tables and parents snapped pictures, we stood, trying to keep a smile on our faces. Smiling for even five minutes is hard. Your smile begins to twitch because you're so nervous. At the same time, you keep your legs bent so you don't faint in front of hundreds of people.

It feels like a beauty pageant, but it's not.

"If it was a beauty contest, I wouldn't have done it," said Christy Elliott from Delaware. "That's the first question I asked."

Kelly Johnson from South Dakota shared these sentiments.

"I'm a pretty laid back person so most of my friends and I were surprised when they chose me. I said, 'My brother made fun of me—'Oh dear, what clothes am I going to wear today?'—The whole thing is really not like me at all."

Unlike a beauty pageant, we did not compete to be princesses. Each State Society selects a young woman between the ages of 18 and 23 to represent it during the week of the Festival. Most of us were asked by family members or our Congressman to put in an application although the selection process differs from society to society. Some of the girls, such as Miss District of Columbia, were required to write an essay, while a majority of the princess, myself included, were only asked to fill out a form. The National Council of State Societies, which was formally created in 1952, coordinates the activities of the princesses during the Festival. So although we were glad for the experience, we were not used to the spotlight.

But for some girls being the center of attention seemed natural. Miss Maryland, Brooke Stewart, is a singer and has a tour coming up that will visit 26 cities. With her frosted blond hair and tanning salon tan, she looked and acted like a professional performer. At orientation she walked to her seat and announced, "We're gonna have fun!" On Monday afternoon at Freedom Plaza she took center stage and sang "My Funny Valentine" with the band.

Miss Virginia, Susan Robinson, see STORY, page 6

It's Graduation Job Time: Who Ya Gonna Call?

By Kristen Nolen
Special to The Bulletin

When Mary Ruth Venditti Yao started preparing to graduate from Mary Washington College in 1985, she talked to her intern supervisor about what interested her. He gave her the name of a colleague whom he knew had a position open for the type of job that fit Yao's requirements. She contacted her boss's associate and eventually got the job.

Networking. Although too many college seniors do not use this technique to find a job, they should.

According to Renee Everingham, assistant dean for Career Services, the fact that college seniors hesitate to use networking can hurt them.

"This reservation is unfortunate because it limits their job search strategies and increases the chances that they may take a job because they feel it is the only one available," she says.

Kristen David, a 1990 MWC graduate, didn't find her job as a conference planner for the Closeup Foundation in Alexandria, VA., until October. She says now that networking would have made her job search easier.

"Better networking than I did would've made job finding a lot quicker," she says. "I found my job through the newspaper, but it took a long time."

Judy Cochran, a career counselor in the MWC Career Services office, supports David's contention.

"Only 20% of jobs are found through traditional job search strategies. Networking is important since it helps you become aware of the 80% that are never advertised," she says.

Indeed, National Business Employ-

ment Weekly from June 24, 1990 states that between 10% and 15% of job seekers find work through ads. Recruiters, and headhunters make up a similar percentage while mass mailings and direct contact letters account for about 5%. Networking helps job seekers find the other two-thirds.

These facts show how networking helps dramatically in the search for employment.

"People find jobs through people they know," says Cochran. "People are connected through an infinite number of pathways. The Rule of 250 says that each person has 250 friends or personal contacts—each of these knows another 250. Employers prefer to hire someone they know or someone who has been recommended by someone they know." Everingham agrees.

"It is difficult to predict when a job will become vacant, and it is better to be in the grapevine before there is an opening than afterwards, because at that point, you are less likely to be able to talk with anyone since they are deluged with applicants," she says.

One senior, who asked that her name not be used, says that she got one of her first leads through her father.

"He was playing golf with a colleague one day and the topic of children came up," she says. "When my dad mentioned that I was graduating and looking for a job, the man said that there may be a possible position opening up in his association. I sent my resume out the same day and heard from the guy the next business day. I don't think I would have gotten as quick a response or even heard about it if it had only been in the newspaper."

Networking isn't just dropping names or asking someone you know for a job. It involves talking with people in a career field to gather information about different types of organizations, to gain market exposure, and to obtain names to expand a network of contacts. One develops and uses contacts to get information and become an insider in a chosen field.

"It gives people an opportunity to meet you and learn about you," says Everingham. "You are not just a piece of paper—resume and cover letter. People are more apt to let you know about openings if they have already spoken with you," she says.

Everingham recalls several who found their first job through networking.

"They first conducted informational interviews, and through the contacts they make they learned about openings and applied for them. Sometimes the openings were never advertised," she says. "One student took seven weeks to spend each day conducting informational interviews and networking and he landed a job at the end of that time."

Both Cochran and Everingham suggest first making a list of people you know and letting them know the type of work you are interested in. The list can include friends, relatives, acquaintances, professors, former employees, or professionals or peers from extracurricular activities or internships.

Linda Trossbach, who works for the State Department in Washington, says she often helps friends by keeping a lookout for possible openings. Recently, she passed on information about an editorial position to a senior friend that she heard about from one of her college

friends.

"You never know who these people might know and could refer you to," says Everingham.

The next step is contacting those individuals whom people on your first list referred to you.

"Call the individual, tell them who referred you, and explain that you are researching the field or organizations within the field," says Everingham. "Ask if you could meet with the person for 20 to 30 minutes to ask questions about the organization, the field, and his or her work. At the end of the conversation, ask them for the names of others in the field who you could speak to."

Although college seniors may think networking is only for those already in the workforce who have several contacts, Cochran says students can start the process any time.

"It is never too soon to begin the networking process. Once your chosen career field is identified ask people if they know anyone in that field or perhaps the organizations you are interested in. Ask if you can use their name when following up with those contacts," she says.

Cochran also suggests conducting informational interviews, attending departmental programs, the occupational fair, career day, and class or club presentations to make contacts.

Networking does bring success to many job seekers. In MWC alumni surveys sent to graduates six to nine months after graduation, many stated that they found their present jobs through summer jobs or internships, contacting organizations even if there wasn't an advertised vacancy.

FEATURES



Russell Cate and Tracy Mabbitt at a protest in Washington D.C.

Ecology Club Expands Its Role in the Community and on Campus

Neil Hetrick
Bullet Staff Writer

The Mary Washington Ecology Club is approaching its mission of environmental education with new fervor. The organization already has its own campus-wide aluminum recycling program, is involved with local clean-up activities, and has contributed to this year's local Earth Day events.

According to junior Russell Cate, former Ecology Club president, the group's renewed vigor has been spurred primarily by the college's recent push for recycling that has resulted from a new Virginia mandate that all state agencies recycle 10 percent of their waste by July 1, 1991. Cate said that the college administration hadn't paid much attention to Ecology Club recycling efforts before the new law was passed a year ago.

"All of a sudden we were able to talk with the administration very seriously about getting recycling going and making it a permanent part of the school," Cate recalled.

The Ecology Club went beyond talking and installed 55 yellow plastic trash-cans in dormitories and various other buildings on campus for the collection of aluminum. Twice weekly, club members collect the aluminum cans and transport them to Fredericksburg's Piedmont recycling plant using MWC trucks loaned to them by the college.

Since operations began last semester, the Ecology Club has recycled more than 4,100 pounds of aluminum, according to senior Matt Ammon, the club's Recycling Coordinator. This has meant big earnings for the club—\$1,016 at the average \$.31 per pound rate offered by Piedmont, despite penalties for impurities such as glass mixed in with the aluminum. Club members say these impurities are thrown into the aluminum bins by people who

mistake the containers for garbage cans.

On top of the \$300 allocated to the organization by the college each year, this money has allowed the group to take a generous stand in the local community. According to Ammon, the club donated \$125 last semester to area charities that include the Friends of the Rappahannock, a private organization dedicated to the river's clean-up, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Fredericksburg Clean Community Council, and the Rappahannock Council on Domestic

"All of a sudden we were able to talk with the administration very seriously about getting recycling going and making it a permanent part of the school."

Violence.

The Ecology Club's involvement in community services has also become more generous of late. Through Fredericksburg's "Adopt-a-spot" program, the club has taken responsibility for keeping litter-free a section of the city canal stretching from the Route 1 bridge to Princess Anne Street. The club finished the most recent of its canal clean-up sessions on Mar. 30, collecting 20 bags of trash and 150 pounds of aluminum and glass.

Fredericksburg's Friends of the Rappahannock also works with the Ecology club in a biannual clean-up of the Rappahannock river. The popular water event, next scheduled for Apr. 27, offers interested people the chance to help clean the river in a recreational

outdoors event followed by a picnic. "Spring is a great time of the year for the Ecology Club," said senior Tracy Mabbitt, Community Outreach Organizer for the club. "It's a shame that the school year is over so soon, because there are a lot of great activities coming up."

Some of the biggest spring activities the Ecology Club is involved with are those associated with the annual Earth Day 1991, the club decided to put its efforts into "eco-awareness" fairs on Apr. 20 at the Gayle Middle School in Stafford county and at Spotsylvania Mall rather than organize Earth Day activities on campus.

"The events were sort of instructional events that showed people how to do things on their own," Ammon said. "And there was a great response from the community—especially at the mall. It shows we're not making all this effort in vain."

Both events featured presentations in a fair-type environment by waste and recycling companies, local action groups, and, at the middle school, by student clubs from around the area. Club representatives were at the school during the morning hours, moving to the mall event later in the day.

"It was a long day for us," said Mabbitt afterwards. "I wish they could have had the events on different days so we could have attended both full-day events. Still, it was quite successful."

Mabbitt, who has a teaching internship with the Stafford County Beautification Committee, was especially pleased with the general response from students at the middle school.

"I learned a lot from the kids' displays, and I think they learned a lot from the corporate displays," Mabbitt said. "Now they'll know there's something beyond their seventh-grade science program."

History Class Experiences Europe

Trip Included Stop in East Berlin

By Monica Mueller
Bullet Staff Writer

The Berlin sky was a blanket of gray smog, covering the old war statues with grime. A Trabant, the East German signature car, sputtered past coughing black fumes from its exhaust. Eight Mary Washington College students wandered amid the buildings that still showed evidence of World War II damage.

"Many of the buildings that were standing since the war were badly scarred from bullets and shells," said senior Greta Rudolph. "There were often big chunks taken out of them, or you'd see little plastered [areas] where they'd patched the damage up."

The students of Professor Porter Blakemore's "Europe Since 1945" class spent their spring break learning first hand about the differences in European culture.

"It was great being able to actually go into the places I've studied about and experience them instead of just reading about them in books," said International Affairs major Rudolph.

After rushing to finish last minute packing, term-papers, and mid-term exams, the group flew out of Dulles International Airport on the evening of March 8.

The students spent eight days in four Central European Capital's: Berlin, of what was previously East Germany; Prague, Czechoslovakia; Vienna, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary.

The group, which also included Professor Sam Emory and Mrs. Sylvia Emory, spent two days in each of the four countries, taking in the historical sights. They traveled by bus from city to city, and were exposed to the drastic differences between previously Communist countries and democratic countries.

Junior Liam Cleaver said, "In East Berlin you really notice it. The difference between East and West Berlin, economically, there's such a difference. It's like night and day."

"I thought it was interesting in Hungary how they spray-painted across street signs the Communists had put up," said International Affairs and History major Cleaver. "They re-established the old street signs they had before the Communists took over and had removed certain statues."

"I really woke up my eyes to the fact that it'd been some sort of different government."

The students drove past the border of Hungary and Austria on Friday March 15, a Hungarian national holiday. At the border stood a 7 kilometer line of cars eagerly waiting entrance into Austria.

"These people were on holiday and wanted to go into Vienna to buy

things that they couldn't get in Hungary," said Blakemore. "Coffee was a big item. [The Austrians] had bags of it that they would sell right across the frontier crossing."

"It was amazing to see basically a five mile long line. And they couldn't afford to stay anywhere so they all sleep in their cars," added Blakemore.

Blakemore became interested in taking college students to Europe after spending three weeks in Germany two years ago.

"I thought at that time it would be a great experience for the students to

ferent, but they weren't pleasant or comfortable," said Whalen. "But Prague was so pretty and quaint." Rudolph agreed, but added, "If you look behind the scenic beauty it is very poor. These houses don't have electrical lines going to them. They are lucky if they have indoor plumbing. It's really pretty and scenic to look at but you wouldn't want to live there."

In Czechoslovakia the exchange rate was extraordinarily good—approximately 26 Czechoslovakian crowns for one United States dol-



Dr. Blakemore's History Class in Europe

sample the differences between Communist East Germany and West Germany," said Blakemore.

This past fall, with the recent MWC emphasis on globalization, Blakemore looked into several different European travel packages and settled on one offered by the American Council of International Studies. Blakemore then linked the trip to his "Europe Since 1945"

lar—which translated into some shopping sprees for the Americans.

"Shopping in Prague was very cheap," said Rudolph. "I got a set of six crystal wine glasses in Prague. I paid maybe \$17 to \$20 for Bohemian crystal glasses, where it would probably cost me \$50 a pop in the United States."

All the students agreed that the trip was well worth the approximately \$1700 they spent for air-fare, lodging—which included breakfast and dinner—and the tour package.

"I think if I had the opportunity to do the trip next year—which I hope there is—I would."

course, requiring any student who registered to take the trip.

Eleven students signed up for the course but three had to drop out of the trip, one due to illness, and two due to their parents' concern of the possibility of terrorist activities related to the Gulf War.

Security in the airports was extremely tight. "In Budapest, when we left, we had to go through several security checks to board the aircraft," said Blakemore. "I know I was physically searched twice, and my bags were X-rayed twice, plus there was another check."

Sara Whalen, a history major, signed up for the course without realizing that a required trip was the highlight of the syllabus. Whalen decided to go because she had never been to Europe and thought it would be a great opportunity.

"I liked Prague the best. It was so different, but pleasantly different, whereas Berlin and Budapest were dif-

ferent, but they weren't pleasant or comfortable," said Whalen. "But Prague was so pretty and quaint."

Rudolph agreed, but added, "If you look behind the scenic beauty it is very poor. These houses don't have electrical lines going to them. They are lucky if they have indoor plumbing. It's really pretty and scenic to look at but you wouldn't want to live there."

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"I think if I had the opportunity to do the trip next year—which I hope there is—I would."

Cleaver, along with the other travelers, agreed, however, that next time it would be more worthwhile to stick to three cities instead of four.

"A lot of the times the guide would say, 'Well, here's such and such a building, and maybe when you come back next time, you can go see it,' said Cleaver."

Blakemore commented, "One of the things I'd do to change the trip would be to cut out Budapest, and add another day in Vienna and Berlin. Not because I don't think the trip was of value [in Budapest], but there was probably one too many cities."

Because he was the sponsor of a group of students, the American Council of International Studies covered Blakemore's travel expenses.

"I see you are an active person. The line is deep. I see you have recently been on a long trip," Laura nods. "Florida."

"I see you are not married." No wedding ring.

"I see you have a boyfriend." "No. I don't," Laura tells her.

Madam Loretta spots and brushes her hair from her face. A few long black strands fall back. She begins again.

"I see you had a boyfriend." Laura shakes her head. "No."

"Once," Madam Loretta adds. Laura nods.

"I see you hurt you." Laura shakes her head again.

"I see you hurt him."

"I see you are worried about someone."

The predictions go on. Sometimes Laura nods, sometimes she doesn't. Fifteen minutes later Madam Loretta has finished. Five dollars will only go so far in the world of palmistry.

Madam Loretta Reads Palms, Tells Fortunes for As Little as \$5

By Erin Ingle
Special to the Bullet

Madam Loretta lives in Falmouth, Va., with her daughter and two grandchildren. Next to their brown siding house is a used car lot. Out front, two signs are planted in the grass. One reads: Steve's Used Cars, open 10-8. The other has a large red hand painted on it: "\$5 Special Reading."

Madam Loretta is a palmist.

She greets her customer at the door, invites her in and leads her to a back room. They walk through the kitchen and through the living room: past the grandchildren watching Bugs Bunny and eating orange pop-sicles. They step over the laundry basket left in the middle of the floor and brush aside the rest of the house. The curtains fall back into place and Bugs Bunny is drowned out by the sound of Madam Loretta's voice.

She asks the girl's name.

"Laura."

She asks for the money. Laura opens

her hand to expose the \$5 bill. Madam Loretta seems surprised. Her dark eyes open wide.

"Is this all you have?" she asks.

Laura nods.

"\$5 pays for a limited reading," Madam Loretta tells her. "I cannot tell you too much. Most people give \$25."

Laura nods.

"I will do one hand," Madam Loretta tells her.

Palmistry, or chiromancy, as a means of telling fortunes has been around for thousands of years. Over time its popularity and credibility have been through a continual cycle of highs and lows. Today, many such as Madam Loretta still practice it.

Customarily, the left hand is chosen for reading, but Madam Loretta takes Laura's right, and brushes the money along the palm—tracing the major lines—first in no direction, then the other.

"Make two wishes," Madam Loretta says. "Tell one to me and keep the other to yourself." She smiles at Laura. It is not a pretty smile. Three of the front

teeth are missing and her large lips catch on one of the remaining. She nods at Laura's wish and rearranges

herself in her plastic pink chair. Moving very slowly, she pulls the extra folds of her long blue skirt under her

legs. One of the children pulls the curtain aside and peeks in.

Madam Loretta waves her hand away and as the curtain closes everything becomes pink again.



Madam Loretta begins her reading.

Readings are based on the three major lines of the hand—life, heart, and

head—and on the different areas of the hand. To the experienced palmist, the hand appears to be a map. The life line runs up the middle of the palm, and the heart and head lines run basically perpendicular to that with the heart line at the top near the fingers and the head line directly underneath.

These lines help to mark the boundaries of the nine major areas which appear on the palm. A palm dominated by lines and markings denotes an expressive, outgoing personality; prominent

mounted areas signify a more introverted, less communicative personality.

"The lines and markings recorded on the palm of the hand are subject to change throughout life," says Carol Heggings White in her book *Holding Hands*. "Thus, a palmist does not really see what will be later in a person's life, but rather how they are living their life at the present."

Madam Loretta however, concentrates in her readings on the future implications of such personality traits rather than the explanation of them.

"You will have a long life," Madam Loretta says, running her index finger along the life line. "I see 80...83 years. You will live that long." Madam Loretta stares down at Laura's eyes.

Laura nods.

"You like to live," Madam Loretta

Ice Cream Keeps Customers Coming to Carl's

By Alison Dunphy
Special to The Bulletin

It's 5:30 on a Friday night. Guided by the pink and green neon ice cream cone jutting from the roof of the square, white building, a steady stream of cars pulls into the tiny parking lot of 2200 Princess Anne Street, Frederickburg. It's an unusually mild evening in February, some might say perfect weather to enjoy an ice-cream cone from Carl's, a no-fills, take-out-ice-cream shop.

Carl's opened for the new season Feb. 15 and they've had a busy season so far. "The first two weeks of the season are a nightmare—regardless of the weather!", says Ramona Sponseller, 28, one of the three owners of Carl's. Carl's closes for three months after Thanksgiving so at the start of the new season anxious customers crowd the shop for their first taste of spring.

What makes Carl's special? "Believe it or not, it's the looks," says Sponseller's brother, Daniel, 26, also an owner. "People are attracted to the big windows where they can see the machines."

According to Daniel Sponseller the shop was closed so that original owner, Carl Sponseller, could enjoy the hunting season.

"The winter months are slow, and besides, the first and last two weeks of the season are so busy that we make up for any lost business," says Daniel Sponseller.

A new employee, Lisa Bruno says, "I went home last night and I dreamed about the line!" A sign placed in the window near the cashier reads "PLEASE KEEP LINE CLOSE TO BUILDING." "I've waited in a line that wound all the way to the back of the building!", says customer, Ken Kalms.

Tonight the line is only 10 or so customers deep and it moves quickly. Two small children stretch on their tip-toes, their faces smushed against the glass as they watch the chocolate and strawberry ice cream ooze from the "Electro Freeze" machines.

The menu at Carl's, displayed behind a glass window well below an adult's

eye level, offers a variety of sizes of cones, shakes, and sundaes with a choice of three ice cream flavors: chocolate, strawberries, hot fudge, maple walnut, and crushed pineapple. Prices range from .64 cents for a small cone to \$3.40 for a quart container.

"We stick to the basic flavors because that's what people like about Carl's," says Ramona Sponseller. According to Sponseller, Hershey's syrup is the flavoring for the chocolate ice cream and it's used as the topping for the chocolate sundaes. Nuts are the only optional, additional topping for the sundaes.

"It's funny," Sponseller says. "College students always expect sundaes with chocolate ice cream. But we serve ours with vanilla, so we have to ask them to clarify which flavor they want."

Crushed strawberries and sugar flavor the strawberry ice cream. Any other special, secret ingredients? "We use grain alcohol to dissolve the vanilla powder," says Daniel Sponseller. "But

you end up with so little grain it's pathetic!"

Tradition keeps Carl's unique. Carl Sponseller opened the shop in 1947 with the same three ice-cream flavors. According to Ramona Sponseller, the owners haven't thought much of adding new flavors because they're confident customers prefer the originals. Many customers are considered regulars not only because they frequent Carl's but also because they order the same items. Kathy Truslow, 17, who's been a "dipper" at Carl's for four years says, "You see a lot of the same people and get to know what they want—like this one guy who always orders two small chocolate shakes, in a bag with two straws."

Wearing a slightly stained white apron and a restaurant-style paper hat decorated in neon green letter, Mike Curry, 17, steps outside for a break. Curry is a GIB, one of the "Guys In Back," named after the co-pilots who sit in the rear of a plane and help the pilot

command the controls. Before Carl Sponseller opened his shop, he was a pilot in the Air Force and adopted the name for the behind-the-scenes workers who make the ice cream and clean the machines.

Curry has been working three to four shifts a week since July of last year. What keeps him at his job? "The girls!", says Curry smiling she leans against a car, arms crossed confidently across his chest.

Sponseller isn't sure what motivated her uncle to start the business 44 years ago, but it has remained family operated. Ramona and Daniel share ownership with their father, Paul Sponseller, 58. Carl Sponseller retired twenty-two years ago when he gave the shop to his son, Herb Sponseller. Earlier this year Herb retired and passed it down to Daniel, Ramona and Paul.

Owning and managing Carl's is full-time work for all three of them. Ramona Sponseller says a typical shift has four employees on duty: a manager, a GIB, a dipper and a cashier.

"Everyone does his own job, says

Sponseller about the 14 employees who work there. "Workers don't rotate their positions."

Paul Sponseller sticks his head out the side door and calls over to his daughter. Apparently, someone didn't clean a machine properly, but Sponseller is more interested in rectifying the matter than commenting about it.

A couple walks by pulling their daughter in a wagon. A passerby waves to the little girl and she responds by offering a lick of her strawberry cone.

Another family drives into the lot and waits while two members wobble back trying to balance a tray full of shakes. Sponseller says customer preferences change throughout the day. Business people usually pop in for shakes during the day, while night time bestsellers are cones and sundaes.

According to Sponseller they have not noticed effects of the recession in their business. "People can always find a dollar to make themselves feel better."



Photo courtesy Kristen Nolen

Cherry Blossom Princesses gang up for hospital visit.

True Life Confessions of a Cherry Blossom Belle

By Kristen Nolen
Special to The Bulletin

American Samoa and I sit atop a black 1956 Thunderbird convertible which is slowly moving down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. on this hot April Saturday afternoon. About 88,000 people on sidewalks, balconies, steps of buildings, and even roofs watch as we pass by. We wear white gloves and wave to the crowd. Our car is a popular one because the granddaughter of the driver throws bubble gum to the kids lining the street. As the children race for the gum, older people clap and smile at us. A few wave back in a practiced style: elbow, wrist, wrist.

"Hey Miss Alabama," someone yells. "Roll Tide!"

I smile and wave some more. After a week of being photographed our smiles are practically automatic. We pass by the grandstand with a TV camera in our faces and try not to notice it too much. We're near the end of the parade route and our week as 1991 Cherry Blossom Princesses representing American Samoa, which is a U.S. territory, and Alabama. Our arms are about to fall from all the waving and all we want is a cool drink.

After the parade we will go back to being called by our first names rather than "Ma'ine," "Florida," or "Alabama." We will be able to relax in jeans and tee-shirts. We will smile when we want to and not be barraged by photographers. We won't have to mingle and be introduced to 20 people or more in a night. For a week, this has been our life. We wore white gloves wherever we went, couldn't wear dresses or skirts, and weren't allowed to chew gum.

Says Amy Archibald of Main, "After all of this is over, I'm going to eat a gallon of chocolate chocolate chip ice cream... by myself."

The week began with an orientation at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, our headquarters for the week. John Cicala, the president of the National Council of State Societies, stepped up to the podium and introduced various chairpersons of events. Before stepping down, he said, "Tomorrow will be a busy day. You're going to eat, eat, eat, all day."

Sitting next to me, Archibald asked, "Are you as nervous as I am?"

I nodded yes, but not as nervous as I was before I knew that I wouldn't be the first for everything. A couple of weeks before, I talked to a former Princess from Alabama and she warned me, "You'll always be first." This year, however, they decided to arrange us in the order our state entered the union. Thankfully, I am nineteenth. Miss Delaware is first. Sitting in the first row of the conference room she didn't look too happy.

Rose Cicala, the Princess Chairwoman, stepped up to the podium and wiped the smile from my face. Today, at the opening ceremony, she announced, I would be first. In a little over an hour, we boarded the buses. We had a police escort to get us to the Tidal Basin but even so it took 25 minutes. There, thousands of people admired the Cherry trees under a nearly cloudless blue sky.

Being first was not that bad, for this event though, because we were not the center of attention; the trees were. The Festival is a celebration of Spring and of the friendship between the Japanese and American people and is symbolized by the Cherry trees. In March 1912, the mayor of Tokyo presented a gift of 3000 cherry trees

to the City of Washington. The first trees were planted by Mrs. William Howard Taft, who first showed an interest in planting cherry trees in Washington, and the wife of the Japanese Ambassador. Today, 650 trees surround the Tidal Basin and more fill East Potomac Park in the District. The first Cherry Blossom Festival was organized in 1933 by Washingtonian groups. A 300-year old Japanese lantern was given to the city in 1954 and is lit at the opening ceremony each year.

After speakers such as the ambassador of Japan, and Sharon Pratt Dixon, the mayor of D.C., we returned to the hotel for the opening reception. A long white platform ran across a pool of water, and overlooking this miniature Tidal Basin was the Grand Hyatt's Restaurant. Fifty of us, from almost all the states and territories lined up, preparing ourselves for the perilous walk across the water. Images of slipping and falling in the water haunted us. Miss Mississippi summed it up when she said, "If I'm going to fall, you're falling with me." We smiled in agreement. As we stepped up to the platform, John Cicala and the General Chairman of the Festival, Gary Crayton, reminded each of us to smile.

We all made it across. As diners watched us from their tables and parents snapped pictures, we stood, trying to keep a smile on our faces. Smiling for even five minutes is hard. Your smile begins to twitch because you're so nervous. At the same time, you keep your legs bent so you don't faint in front of hundreds of people.

It feels like a beauty pageant, but it's not. "It was a beauty contest, I wouldn't have done it," said Christy Elliott from Delaware. "That's the first question I asked."

Kelly Johnson from South Dakota shared these sentiments.

"I'm a pretty laid back person so most of my friends and I were surprised when they chose me," she said. "My brother made fun of me. 'Oh dear, what clothes am I going to wear today?' The whole thing is really not like me at all."

Unlike a beauty pageant, we did not compete to be princesses. Each State Society selects a young woman between the ages of 18 and 23 to represent it during the week of the Festival. Most of us were asked to be princesses or our Congressmen put in an application although the selection process differs from society to society. Some of the girls, such as Miss District of Columbia, were required to write an essay, while a majority of the princess, myself included, were only asked to fill out a form. The National Council of State Societies, which was formally created in 1952, coordinates the activities of the princesses during the Festival. So although we were glad for the experience, we were not used to the spotlight.

But for some girls being the center of attention seemed natural. Miss Maryland, Brooke Stewart, is a singer and has a tour coming up that will visit 26 cities. With her frosted blond hair and tanning salon tan, she looked and acted like a professional performer. At orientation she walked to her seat and announced, "We're gonna have fun!" On Monday afternoon at Freedom Plaza she took center stage and sang "My Funny Valentine" with the band.

Miss Virginia, Susan Robinson,

see STORY, page 6

It's Graduation Job Time: Who Ya Gonna Call?

By Kristen Nolen
Special to The Bulletin

When Mary Ruth Venditti Yao started preparing to graduate from Mary Washington College in 1985, she talked to her intern supervisor about what interested her. He gave her the name of a colleague who he knew had a position open for the type of job that fit Yao's requirements. She contacted her boss's associate and eventually got the job.

Networking. Although too many college seniors do not use this technique to find a job, they should.

According to Renee Everingham, assistant dean for Career Services, the fact that college seniors hesitate to use networking can hurt them.

"This reservation is unfortunate because it limits their job search strategies and increases the chances that they may take a job because they feel it is the only one available," she says.

Kristen David, a 1990 MWC graduate, didn't find her job as a conference planner for the Clossup Foundation in Alexandria, VA., until October. She says now that networking would have made her job search easier.

"Better networking than I did would've made job finding a lot quicker," she says. "I found my job through the newspaper, but it took a long time."

Judy Cochran, a career counselor in the MWC Career Services office, supports David's contention.

"Only 20% of jobs are found through traditional job search strategies. Networking is important since it helps you become aware of the 80% that are never advertised," she says.

Indeed, *National Business Employ-*

ment Weekly from June 24, 1990 states that between 10% and 15% of job seekers find work through ads. Recruiters and headhunters make up a similar percentage while mass mailings and direct contact letters account for about 5%. Networking helps job seekers find the other two-thirds.

These facts show how networking helps dramatically in the search for employment.

"People find jobs through people they know," says Cochran. "People are connected through an infinite number of pathways. The rule of 250 says that each person has 250 friends or personal contacts--each of these knows another 250. Employers prefer to hire someone they know or someone who has been recommended by someone they know."

Everingham agrees. "It is difficult to predict when a job will become vacant, and it is better to be in the grapevine before there is an opening than afterwards, because at that point, you are less likely to be able to talk with anyone since they are deluged with applicants," she says.

One senior, who asked that her name not be used, says that she got one of her first leads through her father.

"He was playing golf with a colleague one day and the topic of children came up," she says. "When my dad mentioned that I was graduating and looking for a job, the man said that there may be a possible position opening up in his association. I sent my resume out the same day and heard from the guy the next business day. I don't think I would have gotten as quick a response or even heard about it if it had only been in the newspaper."

Networking is not just dropping names or asking someone you know for a job. It involves talking with people in a career field to gather information about different types of organizations, to gain market exposure, and to obtain names to expand a network of contacts. One develops and uses contacts to get information and become an insider in a chosen field.

"It gives people an opportunity to meet you and learn about you," says Everingham. "You are not just a piece of paper--resume and cover letter. People are more apt to let you know about openings if they have already spoken with you," she says.

Everingham recalls several who found their first job through networking. "They first conducted informational interviews, and through the contacts they make they learned about openings and applied for them. Sometimes the openings were never advertised," she says. "One student took seven weeks to spend each day conducting informational interviews and networking and he landed a job at the end of that time."

Both Cochran and Everingham suggest first making a list of people you know and letting them know the type of work you are interested in. The list can include friends, relatives, acquaintances, professors, former employees, or professionals or peers from extracurricular activities or internships.

Linda Trossbach, who works for the State Department in Washington, says she often helps friends by keeping a lookout for possible openings. Recently, she passed on information about an editorial position to a senior friend that she heard about from one of her college

friends.

"You never know who these people might know and could refer you to," says Everingham.

The next step is contacting those individuals whom people on your first list referred you to.

"Call the individual, tell them who referred you, and explain that you are researching the field or organizations within the field," says Everingham. "Ask if you could meet with the person for 20 to 30 minutes to ask questions about the organization, the field, and his or her work. At the end of the conversation, ask them for the names of others in the field who you could speak to."

Although college seniors may think networking is only for those already in the work force who have several contacts, Cochran says students can start the process any time.

"It is never too soon to begin the networking process. Once your chosen career field is identified ask people if they know anyone in that field or perhaps the organizations you are interested in. Ask if you can use their name when following up with those contacts," she says.

Cochran also suggests conducting informational interviews, attending departmental programs, the occupational fair, career day, and class or club presentations to make contacts.

Networking does bring success to many job seekers. In MWC alumni surveys sent to graduates six to nine months after graduation, many stated that they found their present jobs through summer jobs or internships, contacting organizations even if there wasn't an advertised vacancy.

ALCOHOL from page 2

intoxication last semester.

According to Angel, the assessment made after a student has been caught intoxicated twice on the MWC campus. Angel receives a report from Beck, dean of students, and then meets with the student. Angel talks with the student and decides if that student needs alcohol and drug counseling. She bases her decision on the student's drinking habits, attitude, and the nature of the incidents in which they were caught drinking.

"It is very likely that the student does not have a drinking problem, again I have to label anyone," said Angel. "But if a student has a problem, we really try to help them work things out."

If Angel decides the student needs counseling, he or she can receive help from any certified counselor in the area. But any advice or treatment that the counselor recommends must be followed completely.

"If I find that a student did not help get help or went to counseling and is ignoring the recommended treatment,

they should expect to be expelled from the residence halls," said Angel. Student reaction to the new policy is mixed. According to Kirstin Houvde, a MWC junior, "It scares me that I am going to have to go to counseling if I am caught drunk on campus again. Besides, I don't have a drinking problem, I just have bad luck," she said. "I have drunk three times since I came to school here and I've been caught once already."

Katie Ryal, another MWC junior, believes the policy could benefit some students. "I know a lot of people that do have drinking problems. They always get out of control whenever they get out and party," said Ryal. "This new policy might help them get their acts together before they screwed up all of their school work."

Additional changes have been made in the school's alcohol and drug policy this year, said Angel. A new Virginia law requires that all colleges must have a written handbook which spells out their alcohol and drug policy. They must also have certain punishments allotted to each offense, and these must be sent out to all students at the college.

STANDARDS from page 2

Virginia they clean hall bathrooms or lose visitation. The only offenses for which punishment does not follow dorm standards are alcohol offenses, which are regulated under college-wide policy. For alcohol infractions such as displaying alcohol in public or underage drinking, punishments range from alcohol education classes to permanent reprimands on a student's record.

Even with the good intentions of the program, though, both students and administrators see problems. Their complaints, however, cover very different aspects of the program.

"We really got off to a slow start," commented Angel, who is an associate dean of Residence Life and director of the Community Standards and Alcohol Education. "We really need to improve upon communication and training." This year students were trained by RAs who had received only little training themselves. Next year, Angel said all students will be instructed by local professionals.

MWC psychology Professor Roy Smith, who along with MWC English Professor Bill Kemp developed the program, said that it was not particularly successful because they did not have any lead time. "We got the grant two weeks before classes began," he said.

Russell Hall RA Wayne Blakenish agrees that not enough time was given to implement the program. "It was like performing a play while still learning the lines," he said.

Randolph resident Shannon Kasey said that the fact that no results were produced until spring semester bothered him. "I took so long to get anything started," he added.

"It's just as effective as the system before," said Tammy Jackson, resident director of Virginia Hall. "Actually, there's more paper work for me and the students, which is not the idea of self-government."

Most students like the idea that they can implement their own rules, but many do not think they have much control over the process.

"We weren't given enough leeway," said Jeanne Hallock, a resident of Virginia Hall. "It's really about the same rules." Hallock added that many ideas her hall suggested could not be put into action because of existing regulations.

Kelly Dunn, another Virginia resident, felt that the program has not worked because the administration said the students could not implement certain rules. "We can't have 24-hour visitation in both the parlor and study room," she said. "It doesn't make sense."

The program originated when Kemp and Smith grew concerned about all the problems they believed were caused by student alcohol consumption. According to Smith, dorm damage and quiet-hour violations are most frequently caused by intoxicated individuals, and he and Kemp also worried about the danger of some students drinking until they passed out.

"It's interesting how a student will put up with someone who's drunk in a dorm," Smith said. "They wouldn't put up with that in an apartment."

Smith and Kemp theorized that if

students were allowed to make their own rules, they would become responsible for the environment around them.

"Students complain about what they can't do," Smith added, "but they don't think about what they can do."

The program is run from a grant awarded to the college by the Fund for Improving Post Secondary Education (FIPSE), which provides \$116,562 for direct operating costs, plus an additional \$9,325 for indirect costs to run the office which includes expenses for copying, electricity, and repairs.

The Community Standards program is one part of the grant. The other parts concern education and prevention of alcohol abuse. Angel, who runs these programs, has begun a library of alcohol education tapes, serves as the sponsor of BACCHUS, an alcohol-awareness club, organizes Alcohol Awareness Week during the fall semester, and works with students who need counseling because of problems with alcohol.

"Mary Washington College is matching funds for over half the money," said Angel, who noted that the college is giving \$256,130 for a total of \$382,017 for a 26-month period. The costs include salaries for a director, the clerical staff, and student aides, a contract with the Mary Washington Treatment Center, pay for seminar counselors, educational materials, travel expenses, and new equipment like a breathalyzer for the MWC Police Department.

According to Angel, the college has expressed a commitment to continue all aspects of the grant after the trial period is over at the end of spring '92. Mary Washington College, like all federally-funded colleges, must have an alcohol education system started by fall 1992 or face losing federal funding.

Angel and the FIPSE Advisory Committee, which governs the progress of the grant, are now conducting a survey to get student reactions to the Community Standards program. To his surprise, Roy Smith has already found that students feel the punishments have been too lenient.

Using the comments from these surveys and other observations, the program has many new goals for next year. The biggest change will be the inclusion of all residence halls in the Community Standards program, including the four in which the program has already been implemented. Next year, according to Angel, there will be specific guidelines for creation of rules, and there will be a community standards coordinator for each hall whose main responsibility will be to explain the program to residents. "This is a very important position," added Angel, "since communication was our biggest problem this year."

To help students understand the program better next year, all residential students will receive brochures outlining all regulations, and professionals instead of RAs will train students about the program as well as alcohol education and assertiveness training. The professionals are private counselors in the Fredericksburg area.

"We just have to wait and see if things get worse or better," said Angel.

CHERRY BLOSSOM BELLE from page 5

stood tall and poised throughout the week, even in three inch heels. She had been in pageants before and is currently Miss Virginia Coed. Not only was her posture perfect, she was an expert at the art of mingling. Throughout the week "mingle" was the key word and the rest of us had a chance to practice at our first stop at the Japanese Ambassadors residence on Monday morning.

The house was huge, with a pond filled with foot long carp and goldfish. There was very little furniture, but from the ceilings hung enormous crystal chandeliers. The Japanese greeted us with a bow and a smile and ushered us into a room laid out with cakes and cookies and sushi. It was still one of our first events so we had not yet gotten the hang of juggling food, a drink, and small talk. But mingling wasn't that bad. Most people hung out with people they knew or simply ate and looked around the room. By the first day, cliques had already formed. Mine was Miss American Samoa, Sina Fanene; Miss Maine; Miss South Dakota; Miss Delaware; and Miss Nebraska, Deanna Nichols.

Throughout most of the week, the princesses were the center of attention. But on Thursday, the children we visited at Children's Hospital took over. After we boarded the buses, John Cicala said, "Girls, today you may see some things that will tear your heart out but please remember to keep a smile on your face." Smiling was the hardest part of this activity as we gave a balloon to a 4-year old named C.C. who has cancer and to a pair of Siamese twins who had recently been separated. But at the same time, smiling was the easiest part because the kids were ecstatic to have visitors, especially one's with balloons.

Two older patients, Tony and Jason, were thrilled just to have 25 girls in their room. Jason ran around the room trying to find a pen and paper to give us his phone number and wanted to know where we were eating lunch so he could meet us there. Tony sat up in bed and said, "This must be heaven."

The Grand Ball on Friday night was the culmination of our week of smil-

ing, mingling, and being introduced. First, our escorts walked us to a long platform which stood at the front of a room filled with hundreds of people. After Bob Levey of the Washington Post announced all the princesses, we stood and smiled for photographers and camera crews as the Japanese Ambassador stepped up to a large wheel with the names of the fifty-five states and territories on it. The spinning of the wheel would determine, completely by chance, who would be crowned queen and travel to Japan at the end of April for their Cherry Blossom Festival. Some of us took our names off the wheel since the trip conflicted with exams and graduation. The ambassador spun the wheel. As it slowed down, the arrow clicked to a blank. Standing near me, Miss Louisiana, whose name was still on the wheel, said, "Almost none of us want to win the trip."

The ambassador spun the wheel a

second time. Again, it landed on an empty slot. Girls crowded nearer to the wheel, anxious to see the third try. The third try did it. "It's Georgia," announced Bob Levey.

Kimberly Stacy stepped forward to be crowned with the official Cherry Blossom crown which is made of 24K gold and pearls. The girls on my end of the platform were relieved. Miss Connecticut said that even Miss Georgia didn't want to be queen because she will have to miss exams.

"Her mother wouldn't let her take her name off," she said.

Before we stepped down to enjoy the rest of the evening, the camera corps attacked. Flashes went off everywhere and parents fought their way to the front, past the official photographer, to get one more shot of their daughter. We spent the last remaining hours of the Ball dancing, or trying to, in our floor length white gowns. Here and there, we snuck a sip of wine

though drinking was not allowed when we wore our banners which was most of the time since the banners practically became a part of us. At 12:30 a.m., we struggled out of the Hyatt, some limping and holding their shoes in their hands, ready to sleep before the parade.

After we pass the grandstand, American Samoa and I wave to the last few crowds of people along the parade route. Finally, we think, it's over. But as we step out of our car, a Japanese man asks if he can take our picture. Then his wife joins us, and next he does. After they leave, bowing and thanking us, more Japanese approach and we spend 15 minutes having our pictures taken with them in every combination of relatives possible. As more princesses arrive at the end, and are snagged by Japanese for more pictures, I slip away and walk back to the grandstand to join my parents.

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SPORTS

McConagha Recovers from Reconstructed Knee

MWC Thirdbaseman Returns Three Months Ahead of Schedule

By Jeff Poole
Bullet Editor in Chief

A dead guy Marty McConagha never even knew has enabled him to play baseball again.

It's been eight months since Mary Washington College third baseman McConagha had surgery on his left knee to repair a torn medial collateral ligament, a torn anterior cruciate ligament, and a torn hamstring. As one part of the procedure, doctors took a ligament from a cadaver and transplanted it into McConagha's left knee.

Not only did the operation work, McConagha was able to return to the 22-5 MWC baseball team three months ahead of schedule and retain his starting job at third.

My doctor said I could come back after nine months, but that I might have to sit out up to a year. But, I worked really hard, and was able to come back after about seven months," said McConagha, a junior.

McConagha's potentially career-ending injury occurred last year in their last game before Spring Break. McConagha was trying to score and in sliding, he became entangled with the St. Joseph's (ME) catcher, and tore two ligaments in his leg. He also tore his hamstring.

"In this case, it's a pretty odd thing that happened," explained MWC Athletic Trainer Bob Liebau. "It's pretty unique, but at the same time, pretty significant. Anytime you tear the anterior cruciate, you've done some pretty serious damage."

Liebau explained what would happen to someone with a torn anterior cruciate, the knee's inner ligament running from the bottom front to the top back of the knee. When the anterior cruciate tears, and in Marty's case, it snapped like a rubber band breaking, it no longer holds the lower portion of the leg in place, said Liebau, pushing his calf and lower leg forward trying to illustrate the injury.

A torn medial collateral ligament, located on the side of the knee, hampers an individual when they run. When in fact, it supports the knee and lower leg, preventing them from shifting laterally. "Anytime you would go to plant and turn while running, the upper portion of your leg would turn, but the lower half, because of the torn collateral, would have to slowly catch up and make the turn," explained Liebau turning the upper portion of his leg while simulating the lower half whipping around.

"From an anatomical point of view, there are only four ligaments in the knee, and anytime you tear at least one, you've done some significant damage."

"From an anatomical point of view, there are only four ligaments in the knee, and anytime you tear at least one, you've done some pretty significant damage," said Liebau. Nevertheless, the right handed hitting McConagha finished out the remaining 18 games of the season, and batted an amazing .356 while playing with two torn ligaments, a torn hamstring, and a knee brace. "I kept playing because I thought I could still help the team," he said.

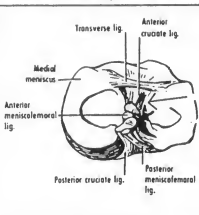
Extensive supportive taping by Liebau and a brace prescribed by local physician Michael O'Brien enabled McConagha to finish the season. "Initially, I tried to play without the brace," said McConagha, "but one time I planted my left leg to field a ball, my knee buckled, and it looked like I couldn't even walk."

It wasn't until that summer that his

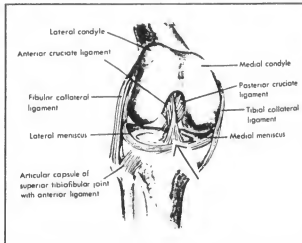


Photo David Clayton

Thirdbaseman Marty McConagha



Featured is the knee's anterior cruciate ligament



knee was fully examined, and the full extent of the injury was known.

McConagha was fortunate enough to gain an appointment with knee and elbow specialist Dr. Casperi, who has performed surgery on such notable athletes as Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton and New York Mets pitcher Frank Viola.

The question of whether or not to have surgery became fairly simple for McConagha after Casperi explained the potential consequences of not having the operation. "Dr. Casperi told me that the decision to have surgery was a really important one, and it would ultimately be my decision. But he also warned that if I didn't, I might not even be able to play with my kids when I'm 30," said McConagha.

While he admitted that he could have simply slapped a brace on his leg and played, McConagha added that he was really looking toward life after baseball. "I didn't want to not

have the operation, and then have my knee hamper my lifestyle. I was looking long-term," said the six-foot tall third baseman.

McConagha's surgery took three hours. The process entailed taking the tendon from the cadaver, and shaping it and molding it to replace his torn anterior cruciate. McConagha believes they used an achilles tendon to replace the anterior cruciate in his knee. A prescription for 10-12 months of rehabilitation work was issued following the surgery. The outlook was that McConagha would miss both the fall and spring seasons of his junior year.

"We looked for him back in the Fall of '91," said MWC baseball coach Tom Sheridan. "We didn't count on him for this year at all. We were just

concerned about when he could walk and run normally, much less play baseball."

But an intense rehabilitation program, a tremendous amount of encouragement and support from his family, friends and teammates, and his desire to play baseball, have enabled McConagha to work through his rehabilitation quickly, and prepared him the 1991 spring season—three to four months ahead of schedule.

His physical therapy regimen at the Princess Anne Medical Center required him to work out three times a week doing simple strength exercises to rebuild the lost strength in his left knee. Therapist Ginger Houck had him do exercises ranging from isotonics and isokinetics, nautilus type exercises, to leg curls, leg extensions, and squats.

McConagha acknowledged that despite his quick recovery, the rehabilitation process was far from easy. "It was really frustrating at first. I couldn't do the little things. Simple exercises would make my leg shake."

For a while, things didn't look as promising for him as they do now. "For about the first three months or so, it didn't seem to improve any. But then after that, I started to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I knew and could see that things were getting better."

The Alexandria native has made it 'back' in about seven months, well ahead of the 10-12 months originally suggested. McConagha felt ready to play in February, but the decision was left up to his local doctor, O'Brien. McConagha admitted that even though he was ahead of schedule, O'Brien was wary of him returning so soon.

"He'd say stuff like, 'I know you want to play and feel ready to, but I just can't say you can.' He didn't really forbid me," said McConagha, "but he didn't really recommend it either."

"I told him we'd make a decision in the spring," said Coach Sheridan. "If I thought he could help the club as a DH, or by playing a little third, then we'd do it. But," he continued, "If I didn't think he was close to being ready to play, he would have sat out the season, and saved that year of eligibility."

Sheridan believed McConagha was ready to play when he kept him on the roster this spring. He was right. McConagha, a Economics and Business major, has responded by starting 25 of the team's 27 games at third base, and by batting at a .323 clip. He's knocked out 30 hits (seven doubles), posted 21 RBI's and stolen 11 bases. He's only made three errors this season.

Despite the severity of his injury, McConagha and Sheridan believe he's at least equal to, or above the level of play he was at, prior to getting hurt.

"I don't think I've lost any mobility. That's pretty much a mental thing though. I might have lost about a half a step as fast as quickness goes, but I adjust," said McConagha. Sheridan feels McConagha is better now than before. "I'd say he's a little better now. He's worked really hard to get back, and he's been playing great. I haven't noticed any drop off."

McConagha's teammates agreed.

"For somebody who hurt his knee that badly, Marty plays better now than he did last year," said sophomore pitcher Tim Rice.

Shortstop and McConagha's three-year teammate, Ray Stapleton adds, "He plays with more determination and aggressiveness than before. He's at the same level or better than when he got hurt."

Sheridan credited McConagha as one of the reasons the team had been so successful this year. "His presence on the team has helped us. He's a fierce competitor. Just him being out there has really given the team a lift. The fact that he was able to play at all this year has been a real plus."

Rice agreed. "When Marty's at third, you know he's never going to make an error. He's saved me a bunch of times. He's a real leader on our team."

He's a real leader on our team. He makes the really tough plays that no one else can, but makes the really easy ones too. He gets the team going, and has done an unbelievable job this year."

Sheridan has a lot of respect for McConagha. Not only has he come back, but he's come back early, and stronger. "Marty can only play the game one way—all out. When he first came back, we told him to be careful. After about five minutes, he dove to his right for a ball. About five minutes later, he was diving to his left. He can't hold back and play. That's what you want in a player. He's certainly contributed to us having as good of a season as we are."

Playing three to four months ahead of schedule and with a dead guy's ligament in his knee, the third-hitting, third baseman is simply grateful for the opportunity to play baseball. "I just feel really lucky to be able to come through this, and to be able to play ball again so soon."

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Amy Martel Leads Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Struggle for Equal Rights

from page 1

HSA and [the formation of] a sexual group."

As president of the college's gay, lesbian and bisexual club, Martel is in an ideal position to work at attaining these ends. And she has gladly taken up the challenge.

"This is not a threatening movement," Martel explained. "Statements like 'We are everywhere' aren't indicating some underground movement in which we set out to destroy all of the straight people."

According to Martel, the gay, lesbian and bisexual students on this campus must deal with harassment and prejudice on a daily basis. According to Martel, this discrimination ranges in severity from annoyed glances to threatening phone calls. "I get a lot of glances when people see [my girlfriend] Tracey and me together," she said. "And guys tend to laugh."

Martel said that she personally has received obscene phone calls and threats. "I've had a male try to have sex with me in an attempt to change me," she said. "And other members face daily remarks like 'Homosexuals should be killed.'"

The purpose of Gay Awareness Week, held at the College April 7-12, according to Martel, was to provide a public forum for addressing these and other issues facing the gay community on this campus and in general. "Gay Awareness Week helped a lot of people understand," Martel says proudly. "And it showed those who supported [gay rights] and those who didn't."

During the five-day period, several MWC student showed their distaste for homosexuality by wearing sweatshirts depicting their views. One, in particular, read "Homosexuals are worthless." Signs were also seen around campus with inscriptions such as "Homosexuals are wrong, bad, and they must die."

"A lot of people showed their homophobia," Martel said. "They only furthered the movement by making it easier to prove our point."

On the negative side, Martel maintains that the administration has taken a "reactive stance" to the ha-

"We're not going to take it anymore. We will not let people discriminate and walk all over us. We're demanding equality and respect."

rassment that homosexuals receive on this campus and that its unwillingness to attend or outwardly support the Gay Awareness Week programs are both harmful to the club.

George Sedano, resident director of Russell Hall and a member of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Association agrees that the administration should strive to create an environment free of harassment. "I don't want to wait until someone gets hurt," he said. "We need to take a proactive stance."

Martel said that she extended an invitation to the college president or his representative, asking him to attend the homophobia workshop held during Gay Awareness Week. In addition, she said that the gay, lesbian and bisexual students requested that Dean of Students Joanne Bock write a letter to the student body in support of the group's struggle. According to Martel, neither party responded to the groups' request and neither attended any of the Gay Awareness Week programs.

However, she was quick to praise the efforts of one administrator, Shelli Wallis Short, the College's Affirmative Action officer. "She has been incredible," Martel explained. "She's been extra-supportive and has attended several of our programs."

A senior majoring in biology, Martel entered MWC as a regional scholar in 1987. She has been named to the Dean's List twice and has served as both treasurer and vice president of the Regional Scholars Club. In addition, she has worked as a resident assistant for three years.

Active in the Catholic Student Association throughout her undergraduate career, Martel was co-president of the group in the fall of 1991. She was also inducted into Mortar Board, the college's scholastic, leadership and service honor society.

An established leader and honor

student, Martel remembers when times were not so great. "Everything was smooth sailing until January of 1990," Martel recalled.

That's when she was hit by a car on Williams Street, as she was crossing the road. And that's when the slide began for Martel, who was prescribed "a very strong pain killer" for the injuries she sustained to her jaw, arms and legs.

Soon after the accident, Martel began drinking heavily, which continued throughout the spring semester and into the summer months. During this time she was also struggling with her sexuality.

"You don't wake up one day and say, 'I'm gay,'" explained Martel, who stressed that it was a very confusing time in her life. "You suspect it, but you suppress your sexuality. At that time I was definitely thinking 'I am, I'm not, I am, I'm not.'"

Martel said that her drinking problem and the fact that she was taking pain killers only added to her inner turmoil. "I was thinking that if I wasn't drinking or on pain killers then I wouldn't be gay."

That's when she received a letter from a friend. "He said that it would be a roller coaster ride and that when you realize it's good to be gay, you're going to make it. He was right."

George Sedano was that friend. "I remember when she told me," he said. "Amy is a very genuine person. She was trying to look inside herself and be happy, but there was also a lot of confusion and anxiety."

During the summer, Martel "came out" to a few close friends.

"When I finally said, 'I'm gay and I faced it, realized it, and embraced it, I was the happiest person in the world,'" she said.

But she was still battling alcohol, and by November of that year Martel was in serious trouble. "I started drinking [more] heavily," she said. "Before Thanksgiving break, I drank

and slept for a week and a half, I didn't even get out of bed. I was very suicidal."

Martel's sister Alison, a freshman at the college, said that she was very concerned for her sister's well-being. "I knew that she was really depressed," Alison recalled, "but she usually only told me after when she had been suicidal."

Martel withdrew from the college over Thanksgiving break and went home. Soon thereafter she was admitted to Charter Hospital in Charlottesville where she was diagnosed as clinically depressed. "It was caused by the painkillers and my struggle with my sexuality," she explained.

Following her release from Charter, Martel underwent a month of intensive therapy and she is still taking anti-depressants.

Martel explained that the whole ordeal has been difficult for her parents, who are Catholic. "It's been very hard for them," she said. "They had no clue and now they're going through denial and feeling anger and guilt."

Alison Martel agreed. "It was very tense at the time, but they're not shunning her from the family."

"They're Catholic and they think it's wrong," said Amy Martel. "But, they're very supporting and loving. And they're scared for me. Scared that I'll be beaten up or get AIDS."

She added that her parents think that her homosexuality is just a phase she's going through and she agrees to some extent. "It is if you consider my whole life to be a phase," Martel said.

In addition to their religious convictions, she attributes her parent's conservatism to the small-town environment which she grew up in. Born in Massachusetts in 1969, Martel moved to Stanardsville, Va. with her parents and younger sister at the age of seven. "I was just a regular kid," she says.

Martel excelled throughout her career at William Monroe High School. President of Beta, the school's honor society, an All-District miler for the Green Dragon track team, and drum major in the band, she also was the valedictorian of her graduating class. She chose Mary Washington over the

University of Virginia, James Madison University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. "I liked the atmosphere and the campus [at MWC] and I thought that UVA was too snobby," Martel explained. "And the biology department was exactly what I wanted."

She describes Stanardsville, a small town of approximately 500 people located 10 miles north of Charlottesville on U.S. Route 29, as a close-knit community in which everyone knows everyone. Thus, she explained, there is very little discussion of sexuality, especially of homosexual issues. "I think there was only one 'out' person in my high school," she said.

Gina Haney, a childhood friend, fellow girl scout and classmate of Martel's, gives a similar description of Stanardsville. "Homosexuality isn't well received here because the people aren't really knowledgeable about gay and lesbian lifestyles," explained Haney. "They're just very open to it."

Like Martel, Haney's views are atypical of the strict conservatism which is so pervasive in their hometown. She is much more understanding of Martel's struggle with her sexuality. "I completely support Amy for being so open and honest about her sexuality," Haney said. "I think it's a difficult thing to do in Stanardsville and at Mary Washington College."

However, Martel contends that some day soon conditions will improve for the homosexual community if gays, lesbians and bisexuals remain visible and vocal in their calls for equality. "We want everyone to know that we're bankers, lawyers, preacher, teachers, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters," she explained. "We're part of every movement and every minority. We're part of everything. There is no cultural, socio-economic or religious group which does not involve gay people on some level."

"We're not going to take it anymore," she states adamantly. "We will not let people discriminate and walk all over us. We're demanding equality and respect and kindness."

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TUESDAY, APRIL 30	DOUGHNUTS, BEVERAGES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1	SLOPPY JOE, BEVERAGES
THURSDAY, MAY 2	COLD CUTS, TUNA AND HAM SANDWICHES, BEVERAGES

